



Community Health Internship Program: Summer Project Spotlights

During summer 2016, 83 interns were placed throughout Wisconsin to work on projects that improve the health of our local communities. Students worked at health departments, UW-Extension sites, community health clinics, universities, and non-profits. Among the variety of CHIP internship projects this summer, the most common focus areas included environmental health, food systems, nutrition, coalition work, and general community health promotion initiatives.



Rural Health

STOCKBRIDGE-MUNSEE HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER

BOWLER - Thanks to support from the Aspirus Health Foundation, two students (Kelly Loberger and Alex Klimenko) were placed at the Stockbridge-Munsee Health and Wellness Center in rural Bowler, Wisconsin.

They spent eight weeks as Community Health Assessment interns, working on numerous community-wide projects. Kelly and Alex conducted and analyzed the Youth Risk Behavior Survey, which asked about drug and alcohol consumption and sexual risk behavior among teens on the reservation. This information will be used to determine the need for a prevention program.

Kelly participated in the regional FRESH project, where she surveyed local businesses about fresh fruits and vegetables available for purchase. **Survey results will inform future projects to provide everyone in the area access to healthy and affordable foods.**

The most rewarding part of this experience for Kelly was learning about the Stockbridge-Munsee community. Kelly plans to attend medical school and has built her cultural awareness, sensitivity, and competence. **She believes that as a future physician, she will be more aware of how culture impacts health care practices.** Kelly is thankful to have been welcomed by the Stockbridge-Munsee community during her CHIP internship.



Statewide Initiatives

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

MADISON - A cohort of eight students (Alexandra Carl, Chariesse Ellis, Ruth Gebremedhin, Mamawa Konuwa, Samuel Park, Martin Martinez, Erik Sanson, and Natalie Schmitz) worked on statewide initiatives at the Department of Health Services (DHS), including projects focused on health disparities, accreditation, tobacco prevention, primary care, cancer screening, adolescent health and climate effects.

Erik Sanson spent his summer with the Tobacco Prevention and Control Program and had the opportunity to **work with community-based coalitions throughout Wisconsin.** He worked with many different groups, including rural and urban communities, cultural neighborhoods, and individuals within the LGBTQ community. **This experience has fueled his passion for public health as he pursues a medical degree.**

Mamawa Konuwa worked with the Chronic Disease Prevention Unit where she was able to learn about the chronic disease strategies across the state and touch many different areas of health, ranging from physical activity and nutrition to diabetes prevention and control. **Her goal as a future physician and public health educator is to combine medicine and public health to better care for her patient population.**



Community Outreach

PEPIN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

DURAND - Janessa VandenBerge spent her summer working with the Pepin County Health Department where she played an integral role in **many summer community health programs and outreach events.**

Janessa was highly involved in Pertussis management, child passenger safety check, the Get Yourself Tested Campaign, WIC clinics, the Read 2 Me Program and social media messaging.

This CHIP internship experience has prepared Janessa for a career in public health through taking leadership throughout the summer, practicing her advocacy skills, as well as learning how to prepare, plan, implement, and assess community health programs.

Her internship provided Janessa the opportunity to work with diverse populations and advocate for all community members.

