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From: Missouri Area Health Education Centers

Internship Opportunity for MAHEC Students

Missouri AHEC often provides opportunities for AHEC students to complete internships provided by hospitals or other organizations in the community. Listed below are some of the experiences that students had over the summer:

First Hand Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Cerner Corporation, selects high school students each summer for internships that provide an insight into their community projects such as health screenings, Healthe Foundations curriculum for schools, grants for families in need, and Love Bags to give kids entering foster care. Two students from West Central AHEC (WCMO AHEC) participated in this internship. Both students gained valuable experience through the internship. “We spent a great deal of time learning to program and code an app that resulted in the creation of a virtual patient that First Hand implements in local high schools in hopes of teaching adolescents important mental, physical, and emotional health,” said Alex Marko. David Ramos said, “I developed my presentation skills, resume skills, learned about different professions and programs in the community, and met amazing people. Even the application process was filled with many valuable lessons about interviews, essay questions, and professional conduct through email and phone.”

Northwest Health Services, federally qualified health center in northwest Missouri, continues to provide internship opportunities for AHEC students. During the summer of 2016, Emily Wedlock interned with the clinic in her hometown of Mound City. Mosaic Life Care, St. Joseph, also provides year round clinical research internships for AHEC students. These students work on oncology and cardiology projects alongside research specialists.

Two intern programs were available to students in the East Central Missouri AHEC program: one was oral health at Affinia Healthcare. Le Grant Sanford and 12 other students participated in an Oral Health Service Learning Project at a homeless shelter. Following that project, Le Grant had a one-week internship in the dental department at Affinia Healthcare, where he shadowed both a dental hygienist and a dentist. The second internship was in collaboration with Saint Louis University’s Minority Males in Medicine. Other collaborators on this internship include physicians from Washington University and through BJC School Outreach and Youth Development.

A goal for all centers is to have brief or lengthy, paid or unpaid internships available to students involved in our programs.

Alex Marko, David Ramos, and Lauren Wiggins, during their internships at First Hand Foundation.

MAHEC is a partnership of seven locally-governed organizations and three university-based health professions education programs working statewide to increase the numbers of Missouri youth entering stable, high-paying jobs as healthcare professionals and the numbers of professionals caring for underserved populations.

The MAHEC partners include:

- A.T. Still University – Kirksville
- University of Missouri – Columbia
- Saint Louis University
- Northeast Missouri AHEC – Kirksville
- Northwest Missouri AHEC – St. Joseph
- West Central Missouri AHEC – Lexington
- Mid-Missouri AHEC – Rolla
- East Central Missouri AHEC – St. Louis
- Southeastern Missouri AHEC – Poplar Bluff
- Southwest Missouri AHEC – Springfield