<u>Internship spotlights from Summer 2023:</u>





Kelly Poole at Public Health- Seattle & King County

Public Health: Health Promotion and Health Behavior student Kelly Poole interned at Public Health- Seattle & King County over Summer Term 2023. Highlights of her experience are below:

How would you describe your internship experience?

"My internship experience was incredibly rewarding. I was able to help my preceptors and colleagues at Public Health- Seattle & King County design and implement a youth public health camp. This was the first ever camp and a pilot program designed after a long-running nursing camp at the University of Washington."

What was a typical day at your internship like?

"My daily internship activities included planning meetings and project work related to the public health camp. I was tasked with leading the chaperone and staffing subcommittee and I identified the necessary paperwork and processes for onboarding volunteers. I also led the efforts to organize a tabling event for the high school students that attended camp. We brought in community partners, various colleges, and public health professionals to have conversations with the campers about the work they do, along with internship and mentorship opportunities. My internship consisted of a lot of planning and organizational skills to stay on task to make sure we met our deadlines for camp implementation."

What were the highlights of your internship? What did you enjoy the most? What was most challenging about the internship experience?

"The highlight of my internship was seeing all of our hard work come to fruition with the success of Public Health Camp and knowing that all the hours spent on planning paid off in the end. Also, with the help of another intern I was working with, we were able to secure the

Mayor of Seattle and the director of the public health department for an end-of-camp discussion with the youth campers. This was a very impactful area of my internship.

I really enjoyed getting to be a part of camp and see all of the different areas of public health represented in a three-day camp. I was able to learn right along with the students about what areas of public health I might want to pursue with my degree.

One of the most challenging areas of my internship was finding a way into my local public health department. There was not a clear path, so I had to work really hard to get into the internship that I was able to obtain."

What advice do you have for other students who are getting ready to do an internship? "I would say that the most important piece of advice is to be very diligent to get the internship you want. Sometimes you have to look for internships that are not posted, and you need to show them that you are a qualified candidate for positions they may have available. Be confident in going after the internship you know will push you out of your comfort zone. I would also suggest doing informational interviews at different organizations to see what might be a good fit for you. Start looking for an internship early; the process can take a while!"