



2011 SUMMER INTERNSHIP BIOS



PREVENTION
Fellowship Program

Lauren Baehner
Native American Health Center
Oakland, CA

Lauren Baehner is currently the summer intern for the Native American Health Center in Oakland, CA. Lauren has developed skills such as project management, teamwork, needs assessment, and meeting facilitation. As an undergraduate at University of Kansas, Lauren coordinated and led students to the Navajo Reservation to support an elder who continues to resist forced relocation due to coal mining interests. She has served as an intern with the Environmental Health Investigations Branch of the California Department of Public Health. She is currently a leadership fellow through the University of California, Berkeley Center for Health Leadership, for which she is working with the Women's Earth Alliance to aid the Western Shoshone Tribe in designing a study of health effects from gold mining on their lands. Lauren received her Master's in Public Health from the University of California, Berkeley in May 2011.



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Jennifer Chain
Dena 'Nena' Tanana Chiefs
Conference
Fairbanks, AK

Jennifer Chain is in year two of her Counseling Psychology Ph.D. program at the University of Oregon. Her research interests are in protective factors and mental health promotions for ethnic minority children and families. She is currently leading a research project on the social and emotional strengths of America Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) youths in Anchorage, Alaska. As the summer intern for the Dena 'Nena' Tanana Chiefs Conference in Fairbanks, AK, Jennifer is gaining hands-on experience in implementation and evaluation of prevention programs in addition to gaining an understanding of the context and culture of AI/AN communities.



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Kelly Cogswell
Montana Wyoming Tribal
Leaders Council
Billings, MT

Kelly Cogswell is currently working on her Masters of Public Health (MPH) in Epidemiology at Oregon State University in Corvallis, Oregon. A native of Oregon originally, she earned her BA in International Affairs from George Washington University in Washington, DC.

Before starting graduate school, Kelly served in the Peace Corps and also worked for two non-profit organizations in Washington, DC. As a Peace Corps volunteer, Kelly was stationed in Jamaica and worked in health education. Most recently, she worked in grants management at the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Kelly's work experience to date also encompasses several internships, including positions with Human Rights Watch and the American Red Cross. Kelly was selected as the summer intern for the Montana Wyoming Tribal Leaders Council in Billings, MT.



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Cody Cox
Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma
Tahlequah, OK

Cody Cox, a native of Gans, OK, is pursuing a Master's of Science degree in Counseling. Growing up in a small town (population of about 400), Cody excelled academically and graduated Valedictorian of his class in 2007. Soon after, he moved to Tahlequah, OK to begin undergraduate work at Northeastern State University (NSU) earning a Bachelor of Arts in Mental Health Psychology. He was recruited for the Cherokee Nation Summer Work Program and served as a volunteer for the Boys and Girls Club, NSU Honor's program, Cherokee Elder Care, and Riverhawks for Christ Spring mission. Cody is currently the summer intern for the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma in Tahlequah, OK.



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Bernadet Garcia-Silva
Tohono O’odham Nation
Sells, AZ

Bernadet Garcia-Silva is a second-year Masters of Public Health student at the University of California, Irvine (UCI) studying Sociocultural Diversity and Health. Bernadet’s experience includes working with several HIV/AIDS prevention organizations and, more recently, volunteering as a Spanish interpreter for a rural hospital in Guatemala. Her interest in substance abuse prevention arose from her exposure to intravenous drug users (IDU) in the HIV/AIDS community in Los Angeles, where she was raised, as well as from her health behavior theory coursework. Her fields of interest include CAM (complementary and alternative medicine), mental health, and health communication. Bernadet was selected as the summer intern for the Tohono O’odham Nation in Sells, AZ.



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Susan Mittenzwei
Tohono O’odham Nation
Sells, AZ

Susan Mittenzwei is a student at the University of Kentucky, enrolled in the Master’s of Public Health program and concentrating on Health Behavior. She chose this internship for a variety of reasons, including a previous service trip that exposed her to the Cherokee Nation in Tahlequah, OK. The crucial issues of substance abuse and culture are of great interest to her and also played a role in her choice to participate in the internship. She serves as a summer intern to the Tohono O’odham Nation in Sells, AZ. Back in Lexington, KY, Susan is currently employed as a research assistant in the Pulmonary Epidemiology Research Lab (PERL) in the University of Kentucky College of Public Health in Lexington, KY.



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Rebecca Morganstern
Native American Health Center
Oakland, CA

Rebecca Morganstern graduated from Rutgers University with a degree in Computer-Oriented Mathematics in 2001 with a minor in Sociology and is currently pursuing a Masters in Statistics at California State, East Bay, where she just completed her first year. Her work experience includes database management and programming for an Electronic Health Record database. Rebecca moved to the East Bay 3 years ago from Portland, Oregon. She is thrilled to be working with the as summer intern for the Native American Health Center and looks forward to learning more regarding data collected from Native communities.



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Karla Sarto
Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma
Tahlequah, OK

Karla Sarto is the summer intern for the Cherokee Nation of Tahlequah. She became interested in substance abuse prevention as a direct result of personal experience with substance abuse. As an RN charge nurse, Karla was in a car wreck and became addicted to prescription pills during her recovery. With the help of her family and employer, she was able overcome her addiction and became interested in helping others dealing with substance addictions. While continuing work as a nurse, she began assisting in the treatment of patients with substance abuse issues. Karla is now pursuing a Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor Master’s Degree Program at Northeastern State University.



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Shana Thoams
Northern Arapaho Tribe
Fort Washakie, WY

Shana Thomas is originally
from the Duck Valley

Reservation located on the border of Idaho and Nevada. She is Western Shoshone and Northern Paiute. Currently, she is completing my master's degree in Counseling at the University of Wyoming. Prior to beginning the graduate program, Shana taught children in Kindergarten through 12th grade as a certified Art teacher at Owyhee Combined School. Her passion for working with the Native population in the field of counseling stems from a strong community bond. She hopes to assist underprivileged and overlooked youth in recognizing their future potential in hopes to end negative cycles of self-destruction and neglect. Shana is currently a summer intern with the Northern Arapaho tribe and works closely with the Wind River Reservation in Fort Washakie, WY, within the substance abuse prevention program. Shana is part of a team that is in the process of incorporating and refining culturally relevant traditions/interventions, traditional animal-assisted therapy, and motivational leadership techniques into its program.