



California Tribal Epidemiology Center

June 14-August 13, 2021

SUMMER RESEARCH ASSISTANT PROGRAM

The California Tribal Epidemiology Center (CTEC), housed within the California Rural Indian Health Board, Inc. (CRIHB), invites college students and recent college graduates to participate in the Summer Research Assistant Program (SRAP) as Summer Research Assistants (SRAs).

An ideal SRAP applicant will be interested in public health research.

ABOUT SRAP

- Fully remote work
- A paid position/35-hour work week.
- SRAs assist with a short-term, public health research project.
- SRAs select or are assigned to a *host Indian Health Program (IHP) in either a rural or urban setting.
**Host sites TBD*
- Scope of the project will be determined by CTEC and host IHP.
- SRAs will be assigned a CTEC team member as a mentor, who will monitor the progress and completion of research-related projects.
- SRAs will provide regular updates of their progress to their CTEC mentor.
- SRAs are required to attend an all-day virtual orientation and introductory training on June 14, 2021

APPLICATION MATERIALS

Prospective SRAs should submit a resume or curriculum vitae along with a 1-paragraph description of why they are interested in SRAP.

MATERIALS DUE

May 2, 2021 (midnight)

Submit electronically to epicenter@crihb.org

AWARD NOTIFICATION

Selected applicants will be notified by:

May 24, 2021

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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California Rural Indian Health Board, Inc.

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SRAP 2019 STORIES

Jessica (Tribal member of Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians), a recent B.A. in Sociology graduate from Chapman University.

I have been going to the Santa Ynez Tribal Health Clinic my whole life. SRAP gave me the opportunity to see 'backstage' of everything that goes on in the public health sphere on my reservation and helped me develop a deeper relationship with my community. I worked in the Behavioral Health Department at the clinic. Much of my time was spent conducting interviews, taking notes, transcribing, and analyzing/coding the results. I have seen this issue impact families on my reservation for a long time. I am proud that we are finally destigmatizing this behavior and speaking out about it! It gave me a deeper sense of pride with this research assistantship. I became aware of all of the efforts by the Behavioral Health Department and have a newly found passion for mental and public health in general. I was very fortunate to be part of this program and hope that it continues for years to come. It is a unique opportunity for American Indian and Alaska Native students and graduates to give back to their communities.

Cynthia (Hopi/Navajo), a doctoral candidate at the University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine.

This program, hosted by United American Indian Involvement (UAI) under the direction of Dr. Andrea Garcia, gave me the opportunity to delve deeper into a potential dissertation topic for my Ph.D. program while making progress with the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC) homelessness initiative. As a newly elected commissioner for LANAIC, SRAP gave me the opportunity to work with LA County executive directors from several different sectors, meet with a few LA County board supervisors, and draft a board resolution projected to be released early Fall 2019. In addition, I learned how people experiencing homelessness are counted, the systems in place, and how these systems work against our AIAN community in LA County. I learned different ways to communicate the needs of our community to city/county officials and how to strategically plan within the city/county infrastructure.

Zachary, a recent M.S. Social Work graduate from Humboldt State University.

Partnering with United Indian Health Services in Arcata, CA, was a rich experience. As a recent graduate, SRAP afforded me the opportunity to implement much new training, including developing community engagement, project planning and implementation, data analysis, creation and delivery of presentations, advocacy, and report writing. I honed my skills with Microsoft Office Excel, NextGen EMR, and IBM SPSS statistical analysis program. To balance my time spent entering data in the office, my host site supervisor, Dr. Martinez, emphasized and encouraged days out in the community. I joined community outreach workers in making house calls and wellness checks with more vulnerable patients. Residents here must travel two hours one way over dirt roads plus one-lane roads and county highways to get to their appointments. I would recommend this experience to anyone interested in working in public health, social work, public advocacy, or wanting to serve and partner with American Indian and Alaska Native communities.

Kathleen (Pomo), an undergraduate at University of California, Davis, majoring in Anthropology.

I was placed at Lake County Tribal Health Consortium, Inc. (LCTHC), where my main objective was to create a database via Excel for the Diabetes Wellness Program. When not entering data, I helped prepare food for Diabetes Wellness and Prevention workshops and meetings. I also attended the weekly garden class. After finishing the database, I then wrote a grant on the behalf of LCTHC. It was amazing to gain grant writing experience in addition to the other projects that I worked on. As an American Indian student, I was happy to be placed in a location where my maternal and paternal Tribes are from and at a clinic where my maternal Tribe has a partnership with. While I knew of the demographics in the area, this experience helped me understand the struggles individuals face in this rural area on a deeper level. I am confident that I will use my newly acquired skills and experiences as I continue my undergraduate, graduate, and onto my professional career.

Mai Der, an undergraduate at CSU Fresno, majoring in Health Science.

I would also like to thank everyone at Round Valley Indian Health Center (RVIHC) for the wonderful opportunity and hospitality during my time as a research assistant. During my time at RVIHC, I was able to assist in conducting a community health assessment, develop PowerPoints to present to the board, and develop a survey for RVIHC staff via Survey Monkey. I have learned a lot about promoting health to the Round Valley community. I assisted with the Youth Camp by helping the youth during their Rite of Passage ceremony. I took photos and video of the event that will later be used in a digital storytelling project. Engaging with the youth taught me a lot about their culture and traditions; I learned beading and made a necklace out of dentalium. Afterwards, I gave it to an elder in the community as a gift. This program has opened my eyes to furthering my education, that there is much to learn of other communities, and how we can help others be socially, mentally, physically, and spiritually healthy.

Teyah (Wailaki), an undergraduate at UC Santa Barbara, majoring in Biology.

I worked as a Summer Research Assistant for the California Consortium for Urban Indian Health (CCUIH), a co-host site for the Sacramento Native American Health Center. I was assigned duties for projects related to the Red Women Rising program, Tribal Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) program, and collaborated with the California Pan-Ethnic Health Network (CPEHN) on a Health Equity System Transformation (HEST) focus group. For the Red Women Rising Program, I developed a compendium along with relevant laws and policies impacting domestic violence in AIAN communities. For the Tribal MAT program, I assisted our Tribal MAT champions with Narcan trainings, putting together swag bags, and creating flyers about opioid use. When CCUIH collaborated with CPEHN for the HEST focus group, I created a flyer to recruit participants and took notes during the focus group. Afterwards, I analyzed the data and wrote a report on the main findings.