

In their own words ...

Experience – Grow - Make a Difference



How did your internship opportunity happen?

I applied for this internship through Dr. John Peterson. I had visited the Health Department while working on an Undergraduate Research project with Dr. Peterson and Dr. Lynnette Dornak. We had gone to the Health Department to learn more about Lyme disease, which is the focus of my research project.

How does your internship complement your academic goals?

I thought that this internship had little to do with my career goal of becoming an Occupational Therapist. I applied for this internship to see another side of health care and to see if I was interested in Public Health. I have learned SO much from this experience, both professionally and personally. Going to the jail and to WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) have been extremely eye-opening. These visits have changed my opinions about many things. For example, I never thought that I would be empathetic for

people who have committed crimes, but after speaking to many inmates, I want to make a difference and help those who are constantly in and out of jail due to substance abuse. Visiting WIC has also been great, allowing me to work with kids, and get to know and help those who really need it.

This experience has connected my academic experience with my career goals. It has helped me to become completely committed to my plan of becoming an Occupational Therapist. Before working here, I was thinking about nursing...now I know nursing is not for me. I've also learned that I really enjoy working with babies and children!

What type of skills are you learning?

I have learned what it takes to plan large scale events. I have been working with the S.A.F.E. Grant County Coalition to educate on substance abuse, bullying and other harmful behaviors. I have strengthened my communication skills. These are things that I would have been unable to do in the classroom.

Rebecca Homa UW-Platteville Student & PACCE Summer Intern

Interning at the Grant County
Public Health Department

Senior majoring in Biology with a
Psychology Minor

Hometown: Minooka IL

“This internship has been eye-opening, educational and life-changing.”
– Rebecca Homa

Rebecca's aha moment:

“I now know that Occupational Therapy is the career path for me. I truly enjoyed working with children and infants, as well as with the elderly. The WIC and Home-Health Visits validated my career goals and I could not be more excited to see what the future has in store!



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