Casey’s s aha moment:
"I can now apply to Master’s programs knowing that I am committed to public health."

Casey Kudlik
UW-Platteville
Student & PACCE Summer Intern

Interning at Grant County Health Department

Senior majoring in Biology with an emphasis in biohealth & physiology. Pre-Med with a minor in Spanish

Hometown: Muskego WI

“The best part of this experience is getting a taste of what public health is like!” - Kudlik

Casey Kudlik following up with vet clinic on dog bite incident

How did your internship opportunity happen?
Upon researching graduate schools for public health programs, I repeatedly came across the same item in their list of requirements: public health experience. I contacted the Grant County Health Department to seek a volunteer opportunity and Health Officer, Jeff Kindrai, told me about the PACCE Internship program!

How does your internship complement your academic goals? My career aspiration is to be an epidemiologist. With this internship, I have been able to participate in communicable disease surveillance much like an epidemiologist would. There is no such thing as a typical day in public health. I work closely with the public health nurses who are in charge of communicable disease follow-ups. For example, if somebody were to contract Lyme’s disease, I would have to call the victim to make sure they were receiving treatment and then enter the data in a statewide electronic database.

How are you spending your days?
I have been able to accompany the nurses to the jail where they respond to Inmates’ health complaints. I was stunned to see the difference between the mentality required in home health and hospice versus that of the jail. In addition to these experiences, I have been able to go to WIC clinics and learn about that program. I especially like that program because it helps the mother in her current situation and addresses both physical and mental aspects. It is a program based on education and prevention. That is one of the reasons I love this job.

What types of skills are you learning?
I am learning how to fulfill my individual duties as a public health intern to track outbreaks with information reported by laboratories, clinics, or other government agencies. Coming from a background in biology with an emphasis in bio-health and physiology, I was able to see some of the symptoms of diseases I had learned about in the classroom. I have been able to do the communicable disease follow-ups and animal bite orders. I was able to help environmental health team when the flooding took place in Boscobel.

For more information, visit www.uwplatt.edu/pacce

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