Hannah Mehochko
Nursing student
Illinois Wesleyan University
Hometown: Maxon, Illinois

“Participating in this preceptorship has given me such an appreciation for not only nursing, but every section and part of the healthcare team. I have learned so much about how a hospital works and how to better provide patient care.”

Brock Ebbing
Pre-physician assistant student
Hometown: Mount Sterling, Illinois

“The rural preceptorship program is an all-inclusive healthcare experience that all pre-healthcare students should take advantage of. Before I came into the program I thought I knew a lot about the healthcare system. As it turned out, I knew very little. Upon completion of the inter-professional rural preceptorship I now have a better appreciation and understanding of each member’s role in the healthcare team. In addition, I have a greater capacity for understanding how trust and cooperation are paramount for success in healthcare.”

Jessica Jackson
Community health student
University of Illinois
Champaign-Urbana
Hometown: Olmsted, Illinois

“I am truly grateful for the experience. I was able to gain additional knowledge and establish networks that I will use in my career.”

Devon J. M. Pace
MD Candidate, Class of 2018
University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria
Hometown: Byron, Illinois

“This preceptorship program helped me understand the challenges often faced among the various health professionals as well as the specific health needs of a rural community. These types of experiences are lacking in current education and are essential in building respect, understanding, and camaraderie in the healthcare community. Through this experience and the knowledge I have gained, I will be able to better communicate with other health professionals to provide the best care for my future patients.”

Sponsoring Organizations

Established in November of 2003 by the University of Illinois Board of Trustees, the National Center for Rural Health Professions (NCRHP) is located on the campus of the University of Illinois College of Medicine Rockford and is under the direction of the associate dean for Rural Health Professions. The purpose of the Center is to meet the healthcare needs of rural Illinois residents through collaborative projects involving multiple health professions and emphasize recruitment, retention and healthcare delivery initiatives that will positively impact the health and well-being of both rural residents and their communities.

Rural Interprofessional HEALTH PROFESSIONS SUMMER PRECEPTORSHIP

June 6 - July 19, 2017
St. Mary’s Good Samaritan
Centralia, IL

June 13 - July 27, 2017
Gibson Area Hospital
Gibson City, IL
Introduction
The Rural Interprofessional Health Professions Summer Preceptorship is a rural immersion program for health professions students. It is a six-week, paid, full-time experience.

The preceptorship provides an opportunity for highly motivated students to learn in a real-world setting that supports health professionals from different disciplines working together and promotes learning through active and organized participation in the community.

The experience is designed to:
• Provide experience in a rural healthcare setting
• Acquaint students with rural lifestyle
• Convey awareness, knowledge and appreciation for a variety of health professions disciplines
• Create awareness of rural health needs
• Introduce students to rural practice and encourage consideration of practicing in a rural area

Eligible Health Professions Disciplines
Health professions students must have at least completed their sophomore year of undergraduate training and demonstrate an interest in rural healthcare.

• Medicine
• Pharmacy
• Nursing
• Public Health
• Social Work
• Physician Assistant
• Physical Therapy
• Nutrition
• Speech & Language Pathology
• Other health professions as appropriate

A Typical Six-Week Rural Experience
• Engage in up to 16 days of shadowing a variety of different healthcare providers including physicians, pharmacists, nurses, mental health providers, physical therapists, public health professionals, home health workers, hospice staff, etc.
• Complete a three-day orientation to the host hospital, including an introduction to hospital management
• Complete a Windshield Tour of the community
• Reside in a rural community for six weeks
• Attend a variety of healthcare team meetings including ethics committees, care coordination meetings, medical discharge meetings, tumor board meetings, etc.
• Complete a community service learning (CSL) project with interdisciplinary intern group
• Participate in weekly faculty-guided classroom discussions involving rural healthcare practice and theories as well as weekly journal reflections related to their shadowing experiences

Participation in all activities is mandatory and students must have their own transportation.

Community Service Learning Project
The Community Service Learning (CSL) Project is an integral part of the preceptorship. The purpose of the CSL is to emphasize the community context of healthcare. The project is decided on by the host site and benefits the larger community. Students spend at least one day a week working on the project which is guided by faculty and community preceptors. Below is a list of some of the previous projects completed by students.

• Helped a local health department with their IPLAN process
• Developed a worksite walking program for local hospital
• Developed a community health directory for the local community
• Developed a health and wellness Fun Fest targeting children in kindergarten through 8th grade and their families
• Developed patient education materials around various chronic diseases

To Apply
The following documents are required to apply:
• Completed application (www.ncrhp.uic.edu under student opportunities)
• Personal statement that reflects your interest in:
  – Exploring a variety of health professions
  – Rural immersion and your interest in learning about rural healthcare
  – Engaging in a community health project
• Current curriculum vitae or resume
• Letter of recommendation from a faculty instructor
• $25 application fee. Checks can be made out to the University of Illinois

Applications are not considered complete until all materials and fee have been received. Applications are due March 12, 2017.

For More Information, Contact:
Vicky Rhine, MPH
University of Illinois College of Medicine Rockford
National Center for Rural Health Professions
P: 815.395.5854
E: rhine1@uic.edu
www.ncrhp.uic.edu