

OFFICE OF RURAL INITIATIVES 2019 SUMMER IMMERSION PARTNER: GREENSBORO AHEC

The Office of Rural Initiatives hosted an interprofessional team of 4 students in our 2019 inaugural summer immersion experience in Rockingham County through a partnership with Greensboro AHEC. The cohort included students from Pharmacy, Nursing, and Medicine and they spent 4 weeks living together, getting clinical experience, engaging and interacting with the community, and identifying and developing a group project based on community need. The students attended community clinic two days a week, participated in one day of group didactics, had one day of white space and one day committed to group community-based project.

The immersion allowed the students to fully engage through social and clinical opportunities and encourage them to realistically picture future rural practice. This experience also gave the students an opportunity to learn about other professions and to look at the issues they came upon outside of their own professional lens. The Summer Immersion was set up to mirror the success of components from the Kenan Rural Primary Care Scholars and was also to serve as a pilot for the future of the Rural Interprofessional Longitudinal Scholars (RIPLS) program.

The students collaborated on a community Diabetes Management Education program with the Rockingham Health Department based on a pre-identified community needs assessment. They created educational materials, worked on community engagement and information dissemination among other activities to carry the mission forward. Two of four students will continue the work with the community and plan to return to participate in health fairs and other health events in Rockingham County.

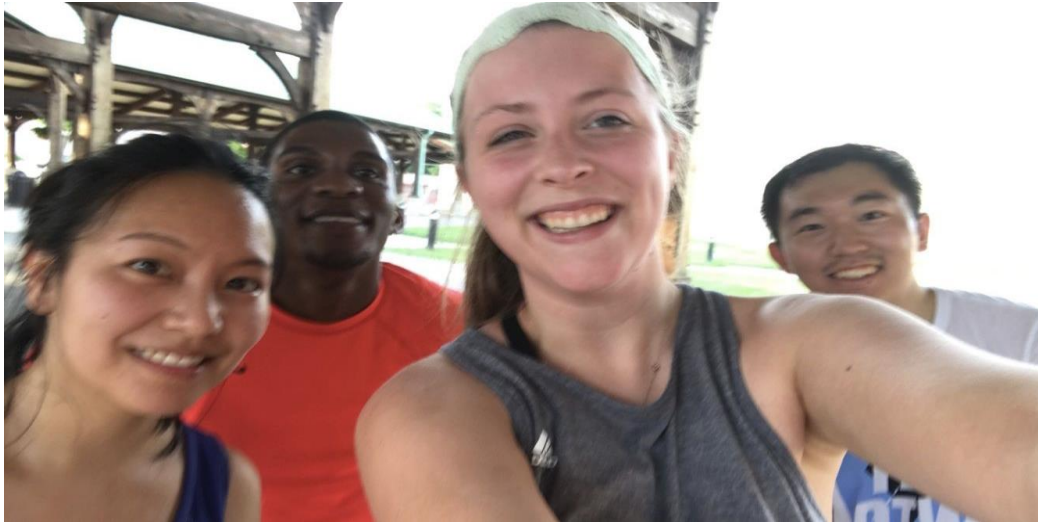


"By learning to work with other professions now, we will avoid these hurtful misconceptions and assumptions about other health careers in the future"



"The rural interprofessional experience has taught me more about the other health professions, living in a rural community and how that influences healthcare, and about how I can help vulnerable populations as

my career interests continue to develop. I am very thankful to have had this opportunity”
Summer Immersion group community engagement: Zumba hosted by Get Fit Rockingham



“I believe that this experience has been very beneficial and has increased the likelihood of me working in a rural setting as a future health professional.”

Student Picture of favorite mural



“This experience definitely changed some of my misconceptions about rural health and opens up practicing in a rural hospital as a new possibility for me. I think experiences like this are the most effective at recruiting future physicians to a rural setting since many people have no experience in rural areas and have the wrong idea of what living and practicing there would be like.”