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## NHI Summer 2010 Health Justice Internships

~~ What to expect (a brief look) ~~

### What is NHI?

The Native Health Initiative is a partnership between American Indian communities in North Carolina, Connecticut, New Mexico, Arizona, and California and health professions students, where both parties are invested in a common goal - **addressing the health inequities identified by tribal leaders and their communities**. We do this through a culture of "loving service," which is best put in words by saying that we value "why we do the work" as much as the work itself. NHI's first volunteers came to North Carolina in the summer of 2005, and have ranged from undergraduate to graduate students, those interested in health to others interested in policy, education, etc, and have come from all over the U.S., Canada, Norway, and Poland and Nigeria.

*In the summer of 2010, we will be hosting interns in two of our project sites, NHI-North Carolina and NHI-New Mexico. Plus the hopes of an additional project site of NHI-Arizona.*

### What are the principles and framework behind NHI?

NHI is grounded in the framework of health equity, an ethical gold standard that seeks the elimination of all systematic differences in health, and loving service. To carry out this framework, NHI's work is guided by four principles: (1) Educating future health care providers on the health issues and disparities facing native communities, (2) Providing concrete, sustainable benefits to the communities involved (3) Supporting students

and communities to engage in meaningful cultural exchange, (4) Empowering native youth through mentoring and training.

### **Who should think about NHI for the summer of 2010?**

\*anyone interested in learning about American Indian communities, from culture to issues related to health

\*anyone invested in social justice, and in better understanding/addressing how health injustices lead to health inequities

\*anyone interested in public health, primary care health fields, and community leadership

\*anyone who is interested to learn a lot, work hard, and have fun

### **What will I be doing when I am an "NHI volunteer"?**

You will most likely live in a Native community in rural North Carolina, New Mexico, or Arizona working closely with the designated tribal leaders for your project site. You will work with the tribe to create a meaningful project that both meets the community's needs and which utilizes your strengths. Past projects have included helping to start Tribal youth empowerment/cultural programs, health education on diabetes, working with homebound elders, and

While the majority of internships organized by the Tribes are not clinical in nature, all interns will be able to organize shadowing experiences in clinical settings.

### **Who are the Tribal partners in NHI's summer internships?**

In North Carolina, the Waccamaw-Siouan, Tuscarora, Lumbee, and Occaneechi-Saponi Tribes will be participating in this summer's work. In NM/AZ the Navajo Nation, and Pueblos of Isleta, Laguna, and Santo Domingo look to be host sites (*all sites tentative*).

### **Dates for the 2010 internships?**

These dates are tentative, and will be confirmed by mid-March 2010.

Tentative dates for summer 2010, for both NC and NM/AZ projects are:

- NHI Orientation beginning Friday, June 25<sup>th</sup>.

- Projects and placements in communities will begin the following week and run for five weeks (June 27<sup>th</sup> - July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010)
- NHI Closing Ceremonies on Saturday, July 31st, 2010.
- Please make travel arrangements plan to be here the day before Orientation and day after Closing Ceremony, if possible
- **All efforts will be made to accommodate individuals' schedules.**

### **Funding?**

NHI proudly ran its first year's projects on a budget of \$0 and continues to do our work on very little monetary funds. While we may have money to help with food and living expenses for volunteers this summer, you should expect to raise money from scholarships and sources close to you. **NHI will do everything possible to help volunteers find funding opportunities, including writing letters of support!**

### **Living expenses?**

Expenses will be quite simple - housing will be provided, food and other living expenses are your responsibility. Travel expenses while in North Carolina or New Mexico will be minimal. In total, you should not need more than \$250 total for living expenses and leisure activities.

### **How do I apply?**

Fill out the volunteer application ([www.loving-service.us](http://www.loving-service.us)) and send it to Shannon Fleg ([shannon@loving-service.us](mailto:shannon@loving-service.us)) by March 1st, 2010.