
HEALTH DEPARTMENT
NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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KCHD Implements “Academic Health Department” Program

GRAND RAPIDS – Making sure the next generation of public health workers is ready for the workforce is critical for the health and well-being of us all. National Accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) has made the Kent County Health Department internship program increasingly competitive and highly valued. To make sure students here in our region are getting the experience they need and to better serve the people of Kent County, KCHD is implementing an Academic Health Department program.

Recently, an online application process for fall semester interns (those working 100+ hours per semester) was launched. The goal of the expanded program is to offer internships that better serve both the student & KCHD by matching applicants with specific projects and preceptors (intern trainers). “This is a win-win for the students and the health department. The interns will be working on important projects, side-by-side with professional public health staff,” said Adam London, Administrative Health Officer of the Kent County Health Department. “The universities also benefit. We have many more health-related programs and students now than ever before. Placing these students in quality learning experiences is important for the success of these additional health programs at our local schools.”

Each division (Community Clinical Services, Community Wellness, Environmental Health, and Administration) will determine intern projects. “We have gifted, talented staff who has a wealth of experience,” added London. “This program will partner us with universities to build a strong public health workforce. Students will benefit from a formal public health education, while our community will benefit from a well-developed group of public health workers who are prepared for public health careers right out of school.”

A “Public Health Boot Camp” for interns will present the various aspects of KCHD, giving students a greater understanding of programs and how local public health departments function within the larger public health system. Whether they focus on vaccinations, restaurant safety, infant health or information technology, students today will be facing a variety of health concerns in their careers.

The program will provide continued education and exposure to public health innovation in both academic and practice environments. Students will have until June 15 to submit an application, along with other documents, in order to compete for a fall 2015 internship at KCHD.

To learn more about the program, go to: www.accesskent.com/Health/hd_internship.htm.

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