

**TITLE:** The Benefits of Extension Service Internships for University Students

**AUTHOR(S):** Tonya Johnson, Karina Goicochea, Lillian Anderson, Karen Elliott, Veronica Irvin, Tina Dodge Vera, Katie Ahern

**PRESENTER(S):** Tonya Johnson, Karina Goicochea, Lillian Anderson

**STUDENT SUBMISSION:** No

**TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE:** general public health professionals and students

**ABSTRACT:** This oral presentation will share benefits and best practices of experiential learning through Oregon State University (OSU) Extension Service internships and how internships prepare students for the workforce or graduate school. It will also include a panel of past interns to discuss the student's perspective regarding internship benefits. A follow-up survey was conducted by OSU on-campus faculty and county-based Extension Service faculty. OSU Extension Service interns were contacted through college and Extension Service listservs to complete an online survey about their internship experience. A total of 80 surveys were completed between January and March 2019. Past interns included both public health majors and non-public health majors such as Kinesiology, Nutrition, and Human Development. Both public health and non-public health students reported that the internship prepared them for work or school (84%), and transferable skills were found to be the most useful. These results demonstrate the importance and effectiveness of Extension Service internships for securing a job in the field for students both in public health and those in other health sciences.

**OBJECTIVE(S):** 1. Participants will be able to describe the benefits of internships with OSU Extension Service. 2. Participants will be able to describe the experiential learning framework.3. Participants will be able to describe how OSU Extension Service interns gained discipline-specific and transferable skills.

---