



**2025-2026**

# **Student Field Placements & Collaborative Projects**

Student hands-on projects in public health organizations around the region



**Northwest Center**  
FOR PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE



**Melissa Esquivel**

Eastern Washington University

*Strengthening System Capacity and Strategic Alignment  
in Whatcom County's LEAD Program*

**Partner: Whatcom County Health and Community Services**

Melissa completed an evaluation that assessed internal capacity, cross-system coordination, funding alignment, and participant-level outcomes. Melissa's work demonstrated the program's impact and created a list of strategic recommendations.



**Julian Estrada**

University of Washington

*Improving Client Engagement and Retention in Rural Community Mental Health*

**Partner: Ascencio Counseling and Social Services**

Julian gathered feedback through staff and patient surveys to understand the patient experience at a health clinic. The information gathered was used to make recommendations to help patients stay connected to receiving care. The evaluation tools were shared with the clinic and can now be used to continuously collect feedback.



**Ally Gee**

University of Washington

*Advancing Cancer Equity*

**Partner: Fred Hutch Cancer Center**

Ally's project developed an Indigenous-Informed Tribal Cancer Data Quality Assessment Toolkit to strengthen cancer surveillance for American Indian and Alaska Native communities in Washington State.



## Alexis Gessler

Boise State University

### *Organizational Networks Supporting Family Caregivers in Idaho*

**Partner: Idaho Caregiver Alliance**

Alexis examined the current relationships among organizations serving caregivers and families. This work included identifying the existing organizational collaborations and referral pathways and identifying new partnerships through the completion of an environmental scan.



## Ronan Goulden

University of Washington

### *Assessing the Perception of the Effectiveness, Quality, and Acceptability of Care Provided Through the Mobile Health Outreach Program*

**Partner: Harborview Medical Center, Mobile Health Outreach**

Ronan completed an evaluation using both surveys and interviews to understand the participant perceptions of both the quality of care and what the program could do to improve. The findings were used to inform recommendations to the program including efforts to improve care delivery, outreach materials, and operations.



## Leah Grier

Washington State University

### *Panhandle-Palouse Preparedness Partnership*

**Partner: Disability Action Center Northwest**

Leah's project was designed to improve emergency preparedness for individuals with disabilities in Latah County, Idaho. Leah completed a literature review and key informant interviews to identify barriers and inform plans for emergency toolkit development. Leah's work demonstrates a scalable model for improving emergency preparedness in rural communities.



## Lauren Gulbicki

University of Washington

### *Mixed-Methods Evaluation of Strategy Implementation under the Whatcom County Fentanyl Operations Plan*

**Partner: Whatcom County Health and Community Services**

Lauren conducted staff interviews, a community survey, a review of program data, and a collaborative data walk to evaluate the program's implementation and strategy-level outcomes. The findings can be used to identify future program work and strategic planning efforts.



## Keely Livingston

University of Alaska - Anchorage

### *Developing a Community Health Profile for the State of Alaska Division of Public Health*

**Partner: State of Alaska Division of Public Health**

Keely's project helped to lay the groundwork for a community health profile in the form of an interactive dashboard to inform public health strategies by region. The results from the project identified which indicators the profile should focus on and will help efforts towards addressing the Healthy Alaskans 2030 goals.



## Stephen Machado

Oregon State University

### *Tobacco Prevention Review*

**Partner: Linn County Health**

Stephen's project helped to understand more about tobacco use and prevention efforts within local communities in Linn County, Oregon. Stephen's work consisted of conducting key informant interviews, creating a post-program evaluation tool, and analyzing data. This work will help Linn County strengthen and tailor its tobacco prevention efforts.



## Ky Martin

University of Alaska - Anchorage

### *A Pilot Study on Diabetes Risk Reduction in Anchorage's Older Adult Population*

**Partner: Fresh Start: Programs for Better Health**

Ky's project implemented and evaluated a pilot diabetes prevention health coaching program for older adults. Data collected showed improvements in knowledge, health behaviors, and participant confidence. The results support the potential benefits of community-based diabetes prevention programs for older adult populations.



## Brenna McDonald

University of Washington

### *Aging with Dignity in Washington State*

**Partner: Economic Opportunity Institute**

Brenna's project examined the needs of caregivers in the long-term care workforce in Washington State. Brenna completed a literature review and led key stakeholder interviews and focus groups with both formal and informal caregivers. The findings from this project can help inform expanding support and recognition of caregivers.



## Quinn McVeigh

University of Washington

### *Exploring Survivors' Decision-Making Needs*

**Partner: Healing Courage**

Quinn's project aims to conduct interviews to understand and identify the needs that will be used to create a patient decision aid. These interviews will be completed with survivors, nurses, and advocates and will also be used to build connections with community partners and presentation of the results at conferences.



## Micah Mizushima

Oregon Health and Sciences University – Portland State University

### *Expanding Health Services for Japanese Older Adults*

**Partner: Ikoi no Kai**

Micah created a grant writing toolkit and a community survey to support future programming efforts at a local community lunch program for older adults. This work led to relationship-building efforts with local community partners, an increased understanding of the landscape of this type of work, and ways to best utilize their resources to care for the community they serve.



## Julia Rhuman

Boise State University

### *Developing and Evaluating an Evaluation Plan for Hodia's Summer Camps*

**Partner: Hodia**

Julia created a formal evaluation plan to measure the programs' impact on youth development and family well-being. The results of this evaluation will lead to the implementation of a standardized framework and a roadmap for strengthening the Type 1 diabetes support network across Idaho.



## Truman Ricks

Oregon State University

### *Applying Bayesian Profile Regression to Identify Drivers of Emergency Department Overutilization*

**Partner: Samaritan Health Services**

Truman used emergency department data to analyze the high-use patient groups that are most likely to over-utilize emergency services. Having these data can help inform targeted interventions to care capacity and reduce expenditures.



## Brent Riley

Oregon Health and Sciences University – Portland State University

### *Burden of Cardiovascular Disease Among American Indian and Alaska Native Populations in Washington State*

**Partner: Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board**

Brent's project sought to understand the burden of cardiovascular disease among American Indian and Alaska Native communities in Washington State. Brent completed a literature review, data and mortality analysis, the creation of data visualizations, and a conference abstract to share these results at local conferences.



## Monica Roe

University of Alaska - Anchorage

### *Disaster Preparedness for Coastal Alaskan K-12 Schools*

**Partner: Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education**

Monica explored perspectives of stakeholders in Alaska's Bering Strait region regarding disability-inclusive disaster preparedness in coastal K-12 schools. The project identified the current strengths, opportunities, and recommendations for future preparedness efforts.



## Sabrina Shaffer

University of Washington

### *Differential Access to Postpartum Depression Screening and Counseling Among Commercially Insured Women in Washington State*

**Partner: Office of the Insurance Commissioner**

Sabrina's project sought to understand the postpartum depression screening rate among Washington's commercially insured women. This project completed a literature review, comparative policy analysis, and key-informant interviews. The findings led to four actionable recommendations to improve coverage.



## Aoi Tischler

University of Washington

### *Community Well-Being and Youth Behavioral Health Communications Strategy*

**Partner: Public Health Seattle and King County**

Aoi's project created a communication roadmap for youth-centered behavioral health communication. Aoi completed a literature review, developed interview and focus group guides, and conducted interviews. The results led to the development of recommendations for increasing internal alignment, creating relevant community-facing communication, and dissemination methods.



## Stella Wingfield

Oregon State University

### *Simply Youth Institute: Youth Program Evaluation and Community Impact Assessment*

**Partner: Simply Youth Institute**

Stella focused on evaluating youth programs through data analysis and strategic communication to improve program sustainability. Stella assessed the effectiveness of the program, assisted with co-designing culturally responsive tools, and created reports that included data visualizations.



## Jane Zhao

University of Washington

### *Exploring Generative AI Use Cases for Public Health*

**Partner: Public Health Seattle and King County**

Jane completed a landscape assessment, held focus groups, administered surveys, and conducted workshops to build a shared understanding and practice of generative artificial intelligence among the Communications Team. The results from this project offer research and guidance for creating policies that address this emerging topic.

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