



Opportunity for High School, College, and Master-level Internships with the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Epidemiology Center

The Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Epidemiology Center (GLITEC) is seeking applications on a rolling basis from high school, college, and master's-level students for their internship, field placement, and/or master's project.

GLITEC has served the Tribes, Indian Health Service Units, and Urban Programs in the Bemidji Area (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin, and the city of Chicago) since 1996. Networked nationally through the Indian Health Service Division of Epidemiology and Disease Prevention, which oversees a total of twelve Tribal Epidemiology Centers throughout Indian Country, GLITEC assists Indian communities with data collection, analysis, community assessments, special projects, health research, evaluation, and epidemiology education.

GLITEC consists of a director, four masters-prepared epidemiologists, and two administrative staff. GLITEC's headquarters is located in the north-central Wisconsin on the Lac du Flambeau Chippewa Indian Reservation, at the offices of the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, Inc. Three epidemiologists work in a remote office at the University of Minnesota's Department of Epidemiology and Community Health. Though situated in northern Wisconsin/Minneapolis, staff often work on site at Tribal locations and attend meetings throughout the three-state area.

This is a unique opportunity to engage in public health practice in rural, underserved and culturally-varied communities who experience disparate health, education, and economic conditions. Due to the consequences resulting from treatment of North America's indigenous populations, potential interns need to be aware of the importance of building and maintaining trust with the American Indian/Alaska Native community for a successful experience.

Interns may work at either the Minneapolis or the Lac du Flambeau office. Inexpensive housing is available near the Lac du Flambeau office with a "Northwoods" ambiance many have come to enjoy. Interns based in Minneapolis may be required to visit the Lac du Flambeau office for an orientation. Regardless of site location, interns will be considered part of the GLITEC team and be included in meetings and ongoing communication.

Projects available to interns vary depending on student interest, academic program requirements, and staff availability. Past GLITEC intern projects include:

- Developed instrument to assess maternal and child health services and needs area-wide
- Assisted with Tribe-specific community health profiles
- Supported Tribal community health assessment (data analysis and report writing)



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- Conducted interview survey of Area Tribal Health Directors regarding health data needs and GLITEC program improvement
 - Assisted with writing the National American Indian Suicide Project report

Past GLITEC interns say:

“When I was first looking for an internship, I was specifically looking for an opportunity to work in health disparities and minority populations. I found GLITEC to be a wonderful place to gain exposure in these areas, and the staff was exceptional at encouraging my knowledge and growth in these areas: they answered my many questions, oriented me to Native American culture and important issues, and allowed me to tailor my experience to my interests.... My time with GLITEC has been irreplaceable, and further, it has been instrumental in helping me focus my interests and career path within public health.”

-Master of Public Health student, University of Michigan, Epidemiology

“I worked with GLITEC this summer to fulfill my field experience requirement, but ended up enjoying it so much, that I’m still working on a project with them. They gave me the opportunity to increase my familiarity with statistical programming and apply academic training to real world problems at an intimate level. I really appreciated that they gave me the autonomy I needed, but never hesitated to answer any of my questions.... Working with GLITEC really gave me the chance to see how my life as a someday-epidemiologist might play out. To boot, the personalities in the remote office are smart and fun, making a wonderful team!”

-Master of Public Health student, University of Minnesota, Epidemiology

"Interning at GLITEC went beyond a mere educational experience. I learned the culture of the organization as well as the challenges they faced in their work, which came from all sides: the historical consequences of past actions by our country's government, the racism and prejudice of people and organizations, economic challenges, and collaboration with Tribal governments. Amidst all of the challenges, however, I could clearly see how GLITEC and even my work as an intern was making a difference in overcoming them. I hope that I was able to contribute a fraction of what they helped me experience.... For any student who is interested in policy, Native American health, health of underserved populations, or managing population health with limited and often unpredictable resources: I would highly recommend an internship with the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Epidemiology Center."

-MPH/MD joint degree student, University of Minnesota School of Public Health/Mayo Medical School

Students interested in an internship, field placement, and/or master’s project with GLITEC should email a cover letter and resume to Kristin Hill, GLITEC Director, at khill@glitc.org.