

UNMC, College of Public Health
Applied Practice Experience (APEX) Opportunities

Partner organization name: Nebraska Extension

Partner organization website: <https://extension.unl.edu/>

Partner organization brief description: The Nebraska Rural Health Extension focuses on improving health outcomes in rural communities across the state. Through community-based education, research, and outreach, the organization collaborates with local stakeholders to promote public health initiatives, increase access to resources, and enhance health communication efforts.

Partner organization's point of contact name and email: Hannah Guenther, MS, CPH, Rural Extension Educator; hannah.guenther@unl.edu

Description of partner organization's priority opportunities (APEX activities):

- **Science Cafés** – Work with UNMC and Nebraska Extension to develop and implement Science Cafés across the state:
 - Assist in organizing and promoting events that facilitate community discussions on health topics.
 - Help tailor event topics to local community concerns and conduct community surveys to assess public health interests and needs.
 - Use survey findings to provide valuable feedback to researchers and educators.
 - Assist in developing educational materials, PSAs, or social media posts to promote these discussions.
- **Cancer Screening Program Support** – Support efforts to organize and promote community cancer screening events:
 - Assist in developing a toolkit to guide the implementation of screening events in rural areas.
 - Collaborate with hospitals and healthcare providers to streamline event logistics.
 - Develop communication materials, such as public awareness articles, social media content, and educational handouts.
 - Create follow-up materials for individuals who are ineligible for screenings, including guidance on screening schedules and cancer prevention strategies.
 - Opportunities for in-person engagement at screening events.
- **First Aid Curriculum** – Assist in the dissemination of a newly developed first aid curriculum tailored for rural communities.
 - Work with Extension Educators to adapt the curriculum for various audiences (youth, workplace safety programs, etc.).
 - Explore opportunities for virtual training sessions and best practices for remote learning.
 - Support the development of a toolkit for other Extension offices, including guidance on class logistics, pricing, and communication strategies.

*Note—An affiliation agreement will be required prior to student engagement

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- Facilitate connections between key stakeholders, such as CPERS, and CS-CASH, to expand the program's reach.
- **Rural Wellness Team Meetings** – Attend and participate in Rural Wellness Team meetings (held every other month).
 - Assist in planning and brainstorming a Rural Wellness Symposium.
 - Work with meeting members to identify potential topics, speakers, and event logistics.
 - Engage in networking opportunities to connect with public health professionals and rural health advocates.

Timeframe of proposed activities: Summer 2025 (May – August)

Benefit of proposed activities to partner organization:

- Strengthens rural health outreach and education efforts.
- Expands engagement with community members on key health issues.
- Supports the development and sustainability of impactful health programs.

Benefit of proposed activities to the student:

- Gain hands-on experience in rural public health initiatives.
- Develop skills in community engagement, health communication, and program evaluation.
- Collaborate with health professionals, researchers, and Extension educators.
- Enhance experience in qualitative research, data collection, and health promotion.

Skill sets of students requested:

- Strong communication and organizational skills.
- Experience or interest in community health research, engagement, or outreach.
- Ability to work independently and collaboratively in a rural health setting.
- Willingness to conduct interviews and/or assist in research projects.
- Interest in data analysis and storytelling through public health messaging.

Additional Information (format of preferred engagement-virtual, hybrid, in-person; partner organization's location): In-person, hybrid, and virtual opportunities available.

For students who meet eligibility criteria, this opportunity is available for funding supported by the COPH. For more information, reach out to juquigley@unmc.edu or review orientation slides 13 – 15.