



Western Gulf Center of Excellence
for Vector-Borne Diseases



**Summer Internship Opportunity
Oklahoma City County Health Department and
Southern Nazarene University**

The CDC Western Gulf of Excellence for Vector-Borne disease is seeking applications for a student intern to work on a joint arboviral surveillance program between the Oklahoma City County Health Department (OCCHD) and Southern Nazarene University (SNU). The purpose of the Vector-Borne Disease Monitoring and Prevention program is to count and test vector mosquitoes for the presence of arboviruses. The program also focuses on mosquito control with larvicide applications, habitat remediations, and community education. OCCHD coordinates mosquito trapping efforts with several municipalities across the county and it is responsible for species identification and arboviral screening. This internship will provide students the opportunity to experience working in a county public health department and in a university research laboratory. Daily activities will include assisting with mosquito check-in, data entry, mosquito identification, molecular testing, and DNA sequencing.

The selected student will also be expected to participate in ongoing community outreach events organized by SNU and OCCHD. The "GO OK" project works to collect mosquito data using the Mosquito Habitat Mapper feature of NASA's GLOBE Observer mobile app. This ongoing pioneer work provides valuable observations of mosquito habitats in Oklahoma to the GLOBE Program. The geospatial dataset will be used to determine whether the presence of mosquito vectors is associated with environmental conditions in the surrounding landscape. Students will gain epidemiology experience and engage in community outreach activities through this program.

This is an 11-week, paid internship that offers hands-on experience in vector-borne disease public health practice. The selected candidate will be compensated at \$11/hr, plus a \$700 monthly housing stipend.

Interested applicants can send the completed application and CV to Caroline Weldon (caweldon@utmb.edu) by March 26th 2020.

Briefly, tell us why you would like to be considered for this opportunity.

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Research Experience/ Additional Comments

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