



## Region IV Public Health Training Center

A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH LEARNING NETWORK

### ***Pathways to Practice Scholars* Field Placement Program Summer Scholar Position**

**AGENCY:** Jackson Heart Study - Undergraduate Training and Education Center (JHS UTEC)

**POSITION TITLE:** Jackson Heart Study Intern

**LOCATION:** 500 W. COUNTY LINE ROAD, TOUGALOO, MS 39174

**AGENCY WEBSITE:** [www.jacksonheartstudy.org](http://www.jacksonheartstudy.org)

**DESIRED START DATE:** June 6, 2017

**DESCRIPTION:** The following position is offered as a field placement through the Region IV Public Health Training Center (<http://www.sph.emory.edu/r4phtc>).

Since there is a greater prevalence of cardiovascular disease among African Americans, the purpose of the Jackson Heart Study (JHS) is to explore the reasons for this disparity and to uncover new approaches to reduce it. The JHS is a large, community-based, observational study whose 5306 participants were recruited from among the non-institutionalized African-American adults from urban and rural areas of the three counties (Hinds, Madison, and Rankin) that make up the Jackson, MS, metropolitan statistical area (MSA). The JHS is comprised of three participating institutions—Jackson State University [Community Outreach Center (CORC) and the JHS Graduate Training and Education Center (GTEC)], Tougaloo College [Undergraduate Training and Education Center (UTE)], and the University of Mississippi Medical Center [JHS Coordinating Center (CC) and Field Center (FC)].

The overall goal of the Jackson Heart Study Undergraduate Training and Education Center (JHS UTEC) at Tougaloo College is to increase the pool of minority students who pursue careers in public health and other health professions. In order to achieve this goal, the JHS UTEC established the SLAM (Science, Language Arts and Mathematics) program during the summer for high school students. The SLAM program has three levels--SLAM I for 9th graders, SLAM II for 10 graders and SLAM III for 11th graders. Through the innovative "Know Your Numbers" component of the SLAM program, the JHS UTEC assesses heart disease risk among adolescent African Americans and uses this information to determine ways to help other communities learn more about heart disease.

#### POSITION DESCRIPTION:

The "Know Your Numbers" (KYN) program, which was developed by the Mississippi Chronic Illness Coalition, is an innovative approach to increasing awareness of cardiovascular (CVD) risk factors that provides an assessment of baseline knowledge of CVD risk factors such as blood pressure and body mass index (BMI) using a structured pre-test. A specially designed educational program discussing personal values and self-care and other actions is presented and a post-test is used to determine change in knowledge. This program was adapted and implemented as a complement to the JHS-UTE Science, Language Arts, and Mathematics (SLAM) program in summer 2004.

The student will serve as Co-Principal Investigator in Training and will be responsible for the primary tasks listed in the next section.

#### THE STUDENT WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO:

- 1) Coordinate data collection for the SLAM KYN Project
- 2) Manage the SLAM KYN database
- 3) Gather more information on the health concerns of African American youth and developing more culturally sensitive health related seminars for youth
- 4) Disseminate findings via research presentation, publication, SLAM program, and website

**PUBLIC HEALTH COMPETENCIES/SKILLS STUDENT MAY STRENGTHEN DURING PLACEMENT:**

- 1) Analytic/Assessment
- 2) Policy Development/Program Planning Skills
- 3) Communication
- 4) Cultural Competency
- 5) Community Dimensions of Practice
- 6) Public Health Science
- 7) Leadership and Systems Thinking

**HOUSING INFORMATION:** If the candidate is selected, low cost dormitory housing is available.

**TRAVEL:** Not applicable

**POSITION TYPE:** Region IV Public Health Training Center Field Placements (for MPH/MSPH students)

**QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:**

- Proficient in Microsoft Office (Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint)
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills

**REQUIREMENTS TO APPLY:**

Candidates must be masters-level graduate public health students from accredited schools and programs of public health located in Region IV PHTC states: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, Tennessee, and South Carolina.

Students graduating before August 2017 are not eligible for this position.

Your cover letter should include the agency name and citizenship or visa status.

Interested students should include a resume, unofficial transcript, and writing sample.

**WORK AUTHORIZATION:** U.S. Citizen, Permanent U.S. Resident

Citizenship statement: The Region IV Public Health Training Center is a federally-funded program which has a citizenship requirement. To be eligible to apply for this position, you must be either a U.S. citizen, a non-citizen U.S. national, or a foreign national having in your possession a visa permitting permanent residence in the U.S.

**AWARD LEVEL:** \$1500 AWARD \*NOTE: STUDENT HOUSING AND TRAVEL COSTS WILL NOT BE COVERED BY THE PROGRAM BEYOND THE TOTAL \$1500 AWARD.

**DURATION:** June 6 – August 1, 2017

**APPROXIMATE HOURS PER WEEK:** 40 hours per week during 8-10 weeks

*\*Students may be limited in the minimum or maximum number of hours they can work per semester based on their university, school or degree's policies. If this work will be also be used as a practicum experience, the student should verify those requirements. Students should abide by their university policies.*

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION:** Please read the "Student Scholar Field Placement Guidebook" for more details about the Pathways to Practice Scholars Program and requirements. It is located on the Field Placements page of the Region IV PHTC website: <http://www.sph.emory.edu/r4phtc>.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Please submit the all the required documents to:

Michelle Carvalho, MPH, CHES - Program Manager/Coordinator [m.carvalho@emory.edu](mailto:m.carvalho@emory.edu)

Region IV Public Health Training Center - Rollins School of Public Health | Emory University

\* PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT THE AGENCY DIRECTLY