

Experiential Learning With The Schubert Center For Child Studies | College Of Arts And Sciences | Case Western Reserve University

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spotlight on our students

Designed to provide hands-on experiential learning, the Mann Child Policy Externship gives selected undergraduate students a unique, practical opportunity to focus on child policy in the com munity context. The Schubert Center for Child Studies at Case Westen Reserve University partners with Greater Cleveland public and non-profit community organizations to create a rigorous educational and civic experience. Working directly with professionals who design and implement policies that impact the lives of chilen and families, students engage in various planning, research, analysis, and/or advocacy activities for policy related to children and childhood. Spotlight on Our Studentstures the students who were selected as Mann Externs and placed in community agencies during the 2010 Spring and Summer semesters.

FOR MORE INFORMATION about The Schubert Center for Child Studies, the Mann Externship application process or how to become a Mann Extern host agency, please visit our website ahttp://schubert.case.edu.



CDPH'S PAM BRACKETT & DEVYN RIGGIO

Devyn Riggio

Cleveland Department of Public Health (CDPH)

ÒMy experience at the Cleveland Department of Public Health was everything I was looking for. I had been wondering for a long time what the bridge between research and policy was and I found my answer. I was able to see collaboration between universities and city departments and the results that come out of those relationships, Ò says Devyn. Olt was the kind of real world experience that you can only receive when you step out of the classroom. My work often would shift from doing research for my report to responding to a request, such as gathering nutrition and wellness information for a little girl who had written to the department asking for advice about what to eat to stay healthy. I felt I made a difference and learned life lessons even in the short amount of time I was there.Ó

CLEVELAND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH (CDPH) is the local public health agency for the City of Cleveland. Formally established in 1910, the department is charged with improving the quality of life in the City of Cleveland by promoting healthy behavior, protecting the environment, preventing disease, and making the City a healthy place to live, work, and play. The Division of Health is designed to promote community health. Community health represents the intersection of public health, preventive medicine, school health, and self-care.

ÒInterning at the Cleveland Department of Public Health allows the students a variety of educational opportunities to gain hands on experience and collaborate on meaningful projects, Ò says Pam Brackett, Devyn's supervisor. ÒDevyn graciously took the ball and ran with it and added value to the Health Promotion team. She was led by her passion for public health and contributed a great deal in meetings ranging from healthy food access, nutrition education reform, and health literacyÓ

OI went into this experience with a few skills that I wanted to fine tune, Ó says Andrea, Òbut beyond that I really was not sure what to expect. From this experience, I gained knowledge in policy, advocacy, and the world of politics. I learned more in these short four months than I could have bargained for.Ó Defining what is meant by ÒadvocacyÓ was among AndreaOs learning goals; at the end of her time at groundWork she describes it this way: OAdvocacy is a great way to raise public awareness about your cause, build a network of supportive individuals, and shape laws and policies by educating legislators about what to invest in.Ó

GROUNDWORK is a coalition of early care and education leaders, parents, service professionals, business leaders, and organizations across the state who have come together to promote state investments and policies that will address the needs of Ohio's youngest children. The campaign is working to ensure that every parent has the tools they need to provide a safe, healthy, and enriching environment for their children during the first six years of life.

ÒAndrea became a valuable member of the groundWork team and helped with many projects, primarily research-based, that support our advocacy with state legislators and other policymakers statewide. This work took a great deal of patience and understanding of the issues,Ó says supervisor Susan Blasko. ÒWe see a strong advocate for children in Andrea and hope that she uses her passion to continue to improve the well-being of children in our community.Ó

Nadra Williams

Cuyahoga
County Court of Common Pleas
Juvenile Division (Juvenile Court)

ở The Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court was the best placement for me,Ó says Nadra. ÒI was able to receive a panoramic view of juvenile law through interaction with various actors within the juvenile justice system. This externship has enhanced my knowledge of how the juvenile court oper ates and issues related to juvenile justice policy and practice, as well as informed my future career goals ்

The mission of the CUYAHOGA COUNTY JUVENLE COURTIS: "To administer justice, rehabilitate juveniles, support and strengthen families, and promote public safety." The court lives out this mission in part by connecting youth and families involved in the juvenile justice system to community and residential services designed to help them learn how to live successfully and safely in society.

ÒI truly benefited from having Nadra this summer. It was fascinating to see the court through NadraÕs eyes. Having a researcher and a fresh perspective is extremely invaluable in such an insular system. IÕm hopeful that Nadra will join us someday in juvenile justice. My collab oration with the Schubert Center allotted me the opportunity to join them in the development of our future leaders. ÓHonorable Judge Kristin Sweeney

Center for Families and Children (CFC)