

## **Latino Coalition for a Healthy California Summer 2008**

The Latino Coalition for a Healthy California internship is an organization for policies and services founded in 1992 by different health providers to improve the health of Latinos. The Latino Coalition for a Healthy California works with students, professionals, medical providers, legislative staff and other volunteers who are dedicated, intelligent, goal-oriented and successful on improving the health of the Latino community. That said, as an intern the following tasks I was involved in were: is implementing strategic objectives to carry on the National Partnership for Action Vision and goals. The National Partnership for Action works to improve and find accessible mediums to provide the quality of care, increase access to care and services by reducing the cost of care among the underserved. I had to find ways on how this type of template would help provide care providers to maximize access, effectiveness, delivery, and quality of care services. Their model/strategies platforms are as of today effective solutions for problems racial/ethnic minorities face in California. The mission of this Platform is to reduce health disparities through affordable healthcare.

My second project included statistical data gathered and reported to the organization of all the Latino doctors in all counties in California. My third project included a policy memorandum/annotated bibliography with executive summaries incorporating how different racial/ethnic groups from different local, state, and regional levels are affected by inadequate healthcare services. This projected dubbed "rainbow paper" is a semi-replica of the honorable Jesse Jackson's Rainbow paper/push organization. My work included the following, to analyze the different racial groups that face different social determinants such as income, social status and community infrastructures affecting their health. Moreover, discover solutions in the macro and meso-community level for all different racial/ethnic backgrounds found in Hispanics; for example Cubans, Mexicans, and South American Latinos. That said the main goal was to reach a consensus of eliminating health disparities among Hispanic/Latino communities.

### **Did this experience make you more or less excited about a career in public or community service?**

I still have a strong sense of what I want to do career wise. I am still looking forward into working for the underserved racial/ethnic minority groups in California. As the Latino population is rising I feel that a career in public health or community services is profounding and regarding career for an individual like me. This experience has taught me that there are many problems facing the Latino community faces. Those burdens include the accessibility of healthcare services, insurance, immigrant status, language barriers, culture-sensitive prevention programs, education, income, economical status, social-determinants of health and so forth. Put other wise, health disparities among Latinos are associated with inter-related social-economical, cultural, and environmental factors. That said, this experience has broadened my knowledge and lead me to narrow my interest in a career in public health, particularly community service.

### **Were you able to develop particular skills and/or interests at your site?**

As mentioned in my previous work journals my first interest was to gain management skills from a clinical/hospital or health insurance setting. However, the skills I attain from this particular internship are regarding and useful. For one, I learn to work independently

and report to my supervisor each time projects were completed. I learn how to write particular Medicare and policy memorandums for different topics. I would say the best skill I learn is improving my writing just a little. As a future public health policy professional, the skills I acquire of learning policy writing are beneficial for graduate school and jobs.

**Would you recommend this internship to a future Scholar Intern?**

I would highly recommend this internship to any scholar intern because the knowledge, skills, worth ethic, mission of the organization and work environment is a great experience for individuals who want to learn about Latino health and policy. Furthermore, any scholar intern interested on finding cheap, accessible, high value, high quality healthcare services to racial/ethnic minorities, and then this internship is for you. With the help of the executive director of the program, Al Hernandez you learn a lot. I learn more about my interest through Al Hernandez about Latino obesity in California and finding solutions to reduce it.

What were the exciting or challenging experiences you had as a UCCS Scholar Intern? The whole experience was exciting from learning about economical and health policy to meeting new friends and colleagues at work. Other than that, I thank this program for everything.