

UCEDD Summer Internship Program – Here and Now

Held every summer, the UCEDD Summer Internship Program at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) provides opportunities for high school or early college students to gain experience in the disability field, develop transferable skills, and learn about various career paths in health care. As one of our interns demonstrated in the [August AUCD 360 newsletter](#), the potential impact of this summer program is incredible. This year we had eight interns who were from both local schools and colleges across the country. They worked on a variety of projects including assistive technology, chronic pain research, policy research and advocacy, social work, sexual health education, health promotion programs, and diversity and inclusion. Highlights included connecting and collaborating with professionals across OHSU campus, directly serving families and the community, and elevating their work and disability issues to the attention of a local senator.



2018 Summer Internship Program Cohort

In its 17th year, we have taken time to reflect on the impact of this program for our students over time. We have heard back wonderful things from interns of past cohorts about what they have taken away from their experience with us:

“After the internship, I ended up working in elementary school special education. I had a better understanding of what kind of team is needed for holistic treatment of medically fragile or ID/DD, as well as how happy and resilient the kids can be.” – Kelsey, 2012 cohort

“...this internship has had a huge impact on how I see disability and healthcare, and how they interact. My eyes were opened to a world of research and innovation I hadn't previously known about, and for that opportunity to learn and grow - I am so grateful. The work I do today really combines health and the disability sector - working with adults in both residential care and day support. My time at OHSU certainly helped me to grow in understanding, compassion, and ability to continue learning about the ever changing field of disability health and well-being.” – Madeline, 2013 cohort

“[The internship] made me much more aware of the many hardships that people with disabilities can face in healthcare systems, which is incredibly counter-intuitive.” – Kylie, 2015 cohort

“[I learned about] healthcare transition, how to support interns with disabilities, including helping to facilitate discussion between interns and placements about individual needs, and the importance of working with a multi-disciplinary team and listening to each disciplines' perspectives on disability issues.” – Josiah, 2012 cohort