

That's a wrap on the 2024 Alaska Indigenous Research Program Internship!

The 2024 Alaska Indigenous Research Program internship concluded on July 26. Research Services and the AKIRP team are sad to say goodbye to the interns, but are so proud of their hard work, dedication, passion, and eagerness to learn throughout the internship. The interns worked on projects including:

- Women's health project (Mentors: Connie Jessen and Gretchen Day),
- Malnutrition and hospitalizations (Mentor: Dr. Tara Ford),
- Yukon-Kuskokwim Community Food Assessment Plan (Mentor: Dr. James Keck),
- 49 Days of Ceremony (Mentor: Connie Jessen),
- ANTHC Pathology Specimen Archive policy (Mentor: Abbie Willetto),
- CDC Alaska Area Specimen Bank consolidation (Mentor: Alisa Reasonover),
- CDC Arctic Investigations Program's Alaska Area Specimen Bank policy (Mentor: Dr. Brenna Simons),
- Behavioral Health Aides program (Mentor: Chris Osiensky), and
- Injury Prevention's Tell Your Heart Story campaign (Mentor: Carrie Rowland).



The interns also participated in a wide variety of activities, including Law and Culture Day at the Alaska Native Heritage Center, the World Eskimo-Indian Olympics in Fairbanks, building a traditional Alaska Native canoe with Doug and Amy Modig, mentor talks, shadowing ANMC providers, visiting Alaska Pacific University's Spring Creek Farm, participating in the Southcentral Foundation Traditional Healing Clinic's cultural workshops, volunteering at Patient Housing, and more.

Interns gained experience in quantitative data analysis, dissemination of research findings, professional writing, research concept development, data collection, infectious disease surveillance, microbiology lab techniques, and conducting background research. The interns also learned about the principles of research ethics, Alaska's Tribal health system, and career paths in Tribal health, health research, and public health.

The AKIRP team would like to thank the interns and mentors, ANTHC Community Health Services, the CDC Arctic Investigations Program, Alaska Pacific University, and everyone else who made the internship a success!



Left: Interns from left to right are Tiffany Ongtowasruk, Emily Si'al, Selah Kone, and Erica Johnson.

Middle: Tiffany, Selah, Erica, and Erica's son outside a traditional Tlingit house at the Alaska Native Heritage Center.

Right: Tiffany and Emily volunteering with ANTHC's Wellness and Prevention program assembling harm reduction kits.

Announcing AKIRP 2025

The tentative dates for the 2025 Alaska Indigenous Research Program are as follows:

AKIRP Week 1: Advanced Research — May 5-9, 2025

AKIRP Week 2: Research Ethics — May 12-16, 2025

AKIRP Week 3: Introductory Research — May 19-23, 2025

AKIRP Internship — May 27-July 31, 2025

Updates will be posted in future editions of this newsletter and at anthc.org/akirp

You can also contact the AKIRP team by emailing akirp@anthc.org



Congratulations to Dr. Amy Wilson on her retirement!

Dr. Amy Wilson, Senior Epidemiologist and Research Nurse Manager, is retiring this month after eleven years of dedication, service, and leadership at ANTHC Research Services. Amy joined Research Services in 2003 when there were only three full-time employees. She became the fourth employee and worked on the diabetes registry. During her tenure, she also worked on the Education and Research Towards Health (EARTH) study collecting and entering data for chart reviews. She has assisted rheumatologist Dr. Liz Ferucci with conducting studies on arthritis since 2010. She also trained and managed a team of nurses and research associates to enhance the quality of research data collection and data entry. Most recently, Amy has been involved with pediatric clinical trials. Amy describes herself as “Just one cog in the research wheel that makes our studies successful and helps improve the lives of our AI/AN community,” but she has played an integral role in health research in Alaska.

Research Services would like to congratulate Amy on her retirement and thank her for being such a brilliant, hardworking, compassionate, and humble researcher, mentor, and leader! Amy—we wish you all the best in your next adventure!

Notes From Amy's Colleagues

“Amy was the “mama bear” to our study teams. She is a great advocate for nurses and research associates, and she skillfully guided our teams on several complex projects. Her organizational skills are top notch! She maintained regulatory binders and quickly became the “go to” person for any number of topics. For my first few months on the job, I always had an “Amy list” of questions that she kindly answered without complaint! Thank you, Amy, for all of your oversight and support! :)” - Jenni Dobson, Epidemiologist

“Many only know Amy from her research expertise and support, but she came to research from a long and talented traditional nursing background. Her care spanned all age groups and she worked in many settings from primary care to higher intensity care in secondary and tertiary settings. She also taught nursing at the University of Alaska

Anchorage and Walden University. Amy routinely worked with inpatient ANMC staff who were interested in evidence-based practice and researching the steps involved, just quietly doing her part. She also regularly volunteered, most recently with a program at Providence through which she sat with patients who would have otherwise died alone... really important soul work. Amy’s nursing care, teaching of nursing students, and staff management came from a heart of service, and she was and is beyond humble about her contributions.”

- Linda Oxley, Research Nurse



Connecting ANTHC Research Services Intern Alumni

Past interns have expressed interest in a platform for intern alumni to connect, network, share advice and resources, celebrate successes, ask questions, and build community among those who are interested in Tribal health research. Ideas include regular drop-in Zoom hours, a Slack channel, and a LinkedIn group.

Past ANTHC Research Services interns—please watch your emails for a survey asking you to share your thoughts, ideas, and opinions on how to best form connections.

New Positions with Research Services Opening Soon!

ANTHC Research Services is currently hiring for two positions, a Program Coordinator and a Health Researcher, for Dr. Tara Ford and Connie Jessen’s research project “Heal(th) from Within: A Research Collaborative to Share our Journeys to Wellness.” The Job ID for the Health Researcher position is 2272 and the Job ID for the Program Coordinator is 2271. The positions are located on the ANTHC job board, which can be accessed at www.anthc.org/anthc-job-openings/

Resources and Opportunities

Internships and Fellowships

- **Public Health Laboratory Internship Program** — This program, which is jointly run by the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), offers paid laboratory internships throughout the year. Applications for their winter cohort are open now and will close on September 13. The internships will begin on January 1 or 15, 2025. APHL pairs interns with mentors and the interns work 10+ hours per week for an average of 12-16 weeks. There are placements located across the US which cover a wide variety of health topics. Applicants must be currently enrolled as students in certificate, Associates, Bachelors, or Masters programs and must have completed at least the first semester of their programs. For more information, visit www.aphl.org/Career-Pathways/Internships/Pages/Application.aspx
- **Public Health Laboratory Fellowship Program** — As part of another APHL-CDC initiative, this program accepts applications on a rolling basis. Fellowships last for one year and APHL matches interns with mentors to work on a variety of topics including environmental health, food safety, infectious disease, and bioinformatics. You are eligible to apply if you have completed a Bachelors degree or higher (or will have graduated with your Bachelors degree by the beginning of the fellowship). There are placement locations across the country. Fellows are paid a stipend. For more information or to apply, visit www.aphl.org/Career-Pathways/fellowships/Pages/default.aspx
- **Western Environmental Science Technical Assistance Center for Environmental Justice (WEST EJ Center) Internships** — The WEST EJ Center, located at the University of Arizona, accepts applications on a rolling basis for paid internships in environmental and energy justice. The WEST EJ Center pays interns a \$5,000 stipend for a minimum of 180 hours worked with an organization of the intern’s choosing. Interns must identify their own placement organizations, although the WEST EJ Center can assist interns in finding

an organization. Applicants must be age 18 or older, have a high school diploma or GED, be a currently enrolled undergraduate or graduate student, and live in Arizona, California, Hawai'i, Nevada, or the US Affiliated Pacific Islands. Learn more and apply at westejcenter.arizona.edu/student-internships

Conferences and Symposia

- **2024 American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) National Conference** — The AISES 2024 national conference will be held October 3-5, 2024 in San Antonio, Texas with the theme “Rivers of Resilience: Sustaining Indigenous Innovation.” Registration closes on September 20. Registration is open to both AISES members and non-members. The conference will include a STEM Activities Day, student gatherings, a Native Artisan Marketplace, panel presentations, workshops, talking circles, tours, and presentations. Learn more and register at events.aises.org/ereg/index.php?eventid=782781&
- **11th Annual Native Languages Summit** — Coordinated by the Department of Education, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Department of the Interior, this conference will be held October 7-8 in Palm Springs, California. Registration information will be posted at oese.ed.gov/offices/office-of-indian-education/native-language-summit-2024/
- **Elders and Youth Conference** — Registration is open for the 41st Annual Elders and Youth Conference hosted by the First Alaskans Institute. The conference will be held at the Dena'ina Center in Anchorage on October 13-16, 2024. To sign up as a participant or to register for a vendor booth, visit www.firstalaskans.org/41st-annual-elders-youth-conference
- **18th International Congress on Circumpolar Health** - The ICCH18, hosted by the Canadian Society for Circumpolar Health and the International Union for Circumpolar Health, has been rescheduled and will now take place in Halifax, Canada on November 3-5. Registration is open now. The Congress is held every three years and is the foremost international platform in which community members, public health professionals, researchers, care providers, policymakers, and other stakeholders meet to share knowledge on health issues in the circumpolar region. Learn more and register at esch.member365.com/public/event/details/4f95e11c8fc1e4069969e8b93504db1b7c0e5b73/1
- **Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minoritized Scientists** — The 2024 ABRCMS, hosted by the American Society for Microbiology, will take place November 13-16 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Both in-person and virtual attendance options are available. Community college, undergraduate, post-baccalaureate, and graduate students in STEM fields from minority backgrounds are invited. A Graduate Student Symposium will be held November 16-17. To register for the symposium, select “yes” for the question “Do you wish to attend the Graduate Symposium?” on the ABRCMS registration form. Register at registration.experientevent.com/ShowABR241/Flow/ATTENDEE#!/registrant//Policy/
- **Alaska Public Health Association (ALPHA) Health Summit** — The 2025 Summit will be held January 28-30, 2025 at the Dena'ina Center in Anchorage with the theme “Advocating for the Health of All Alaskans.” A virtual attendance option is also available. The summit will include keynote speakers, panel discussions, workshops, networking opportunities, and an exhibitor hall. ALPHA is accepting abstracts for presentations and posters until September 30. For more information, visit www.alaskapublichealth.org/health-summit

- **2025 IDeA (Institutional Development Award) Western Regional Conference** — Hosted by Alaska INBRE, the 2025 regional conference will be held in Anchorage on February 26-28, 2025. More information will be posted on Alaska INBRE's website at alaskainbre.org/

Scholarships

- **American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) Scholarships for Native Students in STEM Fields** — Applications for AISES scholarships will open on December 15. A variety of scholarships are available for full-time students who are studying in STEM fields and are currently enrolled at an accredited college or university. Applicants must be American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawai'ian, Pacific Islander, or Indigenous Canadian. Applicants must also be a member of AISES or become an AISES member (membership is free for students). For more information, visit aises.org/scholarships/
- **American Indian College Fund** — Although applications are currently closed for the American Indian College Fund's scholarships, their website features an extensive list of other available scholarships: collegefund.org/students/scholarships/additional-scholarships/

Webinars and Virtual Resources

- **Research Services Brown Bags** — Many of you will remember attending Research Services' twice monthly virtual research and research methods Brown Bags, in which public health professionals share presentations on research findings, funding opportunities, fellowships, and more. If you would like to be added to the email list to receive the Zoom links, contact Gretchen Day at gmday@anthc.org
- **Tribal Public Health Pathways Resource Guide** — This free online guide, compiled by Healthy Native Youth, features information on opportunities in healthcare and public health for Native middle school, high school, and college students. The guide lists helpful information on internships, summer camps, courses, summer programs, externships, research programs, job shadowing opportunities, and more. Access the guide at www.healthynativeyouth.org/resource/tribal-public-health-pathways-resource-guide/

Contact Us

We love to hear from you! Reach out to us if you have any questions, feedback, ideas,

life updates, or opportunities to share at:

chsinternships@anthc.org / 907-729-2906

Find ANTHC at www.anthc.org



*Research Services —
Advancing Tribal health through research*