St. Luke’s University Health Network’s recent Community Health Needs Assessment identified health disparities in our local Bethlehem community as a priority health issue to address. As a result, representatives from local colleges, St. Luke’s and The Hispanic Center Lehigh Valley have partnered to create a Center for Integrative Health (CIH) at the Hispanic Center in South Bethlehem. The focus of this internship experience will be to contribute to various projects facilitated through the CIH, such as the local Food Bank, Senior Center, etc. Students will be responsible for developing and implementing prevention programs, creating evaluation tools, integrating mental and physical health services, and creating interdisciplinary training programs to engage the local community in solving important health and social issues.

Students will work with a combination of staff and faculty from the Hispanic Center, St. Luke’s, and Lehigh University to assist in developing programs through the CIH to promote health equity and reduce health disparities for the South Bethlehem community. Students may participate in activities related to data collection, program management, marketing of community initiatives, and grant writing. Specific programs students may work with include: healthy food options for the food bank, promoting health and well-being for older individuals who attend the senior center, diabetes prevention and management, and community empowerment initiatives such as the Fatherhood Initiative and job readiness programs.

Internships are available for Spring 2018 for Lehigh University HMS students only who have already taken HMS 180 Introduction to Public Health OR HMS/SOC 160 Medicine and Society. Eligible students must be of sophomore, junior, or senior standing. Preference will be given to students with flexible schedules and expressed interest in completing the internship for a second semester. Students should expect that some activities for the internship may take place on weekends, evening, as well as during regular business hours. Students must also sign an internship contract and receive formal clearance through St. Luke’s which includes components such as: a criminal background check, TB test, drug screening, fingerprinting, etc. All costs for these clearances must be assumed by the student and must be completed BEFORE January 15, 2019. Failure to do so will result in an automatic withdraw from the internship.

This internship qualifies for 3-4 credits of HMS 294 Internship, where students are expected to work a minimum of 9-15 hours per week depending on the credits signed up for. The grade for the internship credits can count towards the HMS minor or major and is based on (1) Evaluation of student performance by St. Luke’s, CIH, and Hispanic Center staff ~50%, (2) Weekly journal assignments of 1-2 pages in length that detail the activities completed for the week and integrate scheduled readings ~25%, and (3) A final reflection or research paper due during...
finals week ~25%. **Attendance & participation at weekly meetings on Fridays 12:10 – 1pm throughout the spring semester is also required.** This internship is formally supervised under the direction of Dr. Bonnie Coyle and Dr. Rajika Reed. For more information, about the internship, please contact Dr. Rajika Reed at Rajika.Reed@sluhn.org. For questions about how the internship works with the HMS minor or major, please contact Professor Jessecae Marsh at jessecae.marsh@lehigh.edu.