

2021 CSU Extension Internship Application

Exploring the Use of School Readiness Activities to Support Learning Over the Summer.

1. *Extension agent/specialist mentor name and county/region.*
 - a. Glenda Wentworth - Eagle County, glenda.wentworth@eaglecounty.us
 - b. Carla Farrand - Garfield County, carla.farrand@colostate.edu
2. *Are there any other identified mentors (e.g. campus-based faculty/staff or other Extension personnel) associated with this project?*
 - a. Dr. Emily Merz, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, College of Natural Sciences, emily.merz@colostate.edu
3. *In what region(s) will the student be working (county/region)?*
 - a. Eagle and Garfield Counties/Western Region
 - b. Many of the family's first language or primary language is Spanish.
4. *Please describe the proposed internship goals.*
 - a. To introduce Getting Ready for School (GRS) to parents and preschool teachers as an add-on or stand-alone set of learning activities that have been found to bolster children's school readiness (literacy, math, and self-regulation) prior to school entry (Marti, Melvin, et al., 2018; Marti, Merz, et al., 2018)
 - b. To engage children in GRS activities to support their learning and demonstrate implementation of the activities to parents and/or teachers
 - c. To assess uses of these learning activities within the context of existing early care and education programs or events
5. *How was this applied research project identified?*

This research project was identified through collaborative interest in finding ways of supporting local children's learning and development especially with remote learning or reduced educational opportunities due to COVID.
6. *With which stakeholder group(s) will the intern work?*
 - a. The intern will be working with families and youth preschool age through elementary age offering enrichment activities to support the development of school readiness skills.
 - b. The intern will be working in collaboration with agencies that CSU Extension Agents already have a relationship with.
7. *What student learning outcomes do you anticipate and are there opportunities for professional development?*

The student intern will learn how to work with parents, teachers, and children to support children's learning and development (early literacy, math, and self-regulation) prior to school entry. The student intern will also learn more about the importance of early interventions and educational programs in reducing socioeconomic disparities in academic achievement. The student intern will connect their hands-on work in the community with a review of the research literature on early care and education programs designed to support school readiness in young children from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds. This is an excellent professional development opportunity for students interested in careers that support the learning and development of young children, whether the career be in implementation, evaluation, education, research, or administration.
8. *Do you have a specific mentor style that you would like to share with potential interns?*
 - a. Extension Agents will establish trust through defining roles and responsibilities with the mentee as an important part of building relationships. Helping the mentee establish goals within each county will be important as the mentee will need to be fairly independent in this position. The Extension Agents will introduce the mentee to the community members they will be working with. Extension Agents will also provide guidance by answering questions and providing feedback but will not be involved in the day-to-day activities.
9. *Are travel funds available? Opportunities to provide student assistance with housing.*
 - a. Travel funds are available to be used for traveling between Counties. Garfield County has a CSU vehicle that the intern may use when traveling.
 - b. Eagle and Garfield Counties have identified a host family for the intern to live.