

## **Planning, Implementing, and Evaluating Youth programming with the Youth and Families with Promise Mentoring program.**

### **CSU Faculty/Staff Mentor:**

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### **Extension Based Mentors:**

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### **Region Participation:**

Front Range, Jefferson County

### **Please describe the proposed internship goals, scope, and objectives.**

The Youth & Families with Promise 4-H Mentoring Program is a grant based mentoring program. In the program, children ages 9-16 are matched with a mentor in a group mentoring situation. The program offers 60 at-risk youth the chance to engage in leadership, team building, problem solving, hands-on 4-H project-based learning activities weekly while providing a mentor for the youth to form a strong bond which is the basis for the program. The goals of the program are to improve academic performance, increase social skills and strengthen family bonds and provides consistent caring trustable mentor to help make a noted behavioral change in the mentee's lives.

The internship will focus on developing and evaluating STEM programming for the Youth and Families with Promise (YFP) Mentoring program, and Jefferson County 4-H Program. Key activities will include working with the mentees and families at the mentoring sites, planning implementing and evaluating STEM based activities with the matches, coordinating a STEM based summer camps and, and events and activities for YFP Mentees at the Jefferson County Fair. Wade Ingle, the campus-based mentor will work directly with the intern to help them develop these new and innovative STEM programs, both for the weekly mentoring meetings and for the STEM based summer camps and events. The intern will also develop an evaluation tool using 4-H Common Measures to assess the mentees, mentors, and peer mentors on their comfort in STEM program delivery and engagement with STEM concepts before and after the day camp.

### **How was this applied research project identified?**

STEM is a key component of the YFP program. It would be hugely beneficial to the program to create a tool to measure comfort with STEM concepts, both in delivery for the mentors and in learning for the mentees. Subsequently, the research and analysis portion of this internship is crucial as well as the development and implementation of STEM activities.

### **With which stakeholder group(s) will the intern work?**

Two of the three program sites are Title 1 schools that reside in low-income areas of the county. YFP serves students are at risk socio-economically, developmentally, and academically. Over 35% of the mentees in the YFP program at these two sites have either a 504 or IEP Plan with the school for autism, downs syndrome, attention deficit disorder and mofre. The students and families are dealing with poverty, gangs, bullying, and truancy as well. The third site also has students in the YFP program who are at risk socio-economically and academically. However, this site has over 70% of the mentees in the program with a defined and diagnosed special need such as autism, downs syndrome, attention deficit disorder, hearing impairment/deafness, fetal alcohol syndrome and more The mentors at this site receive supplemental training on working with mentees with special needs which include hearing impairments/deafness, autism spectrum disorder, fetal alcohol syndrome disorder and attention deficit disorder. Consequently, the main stakeholder groups are the mentees who are predominantly from underserved populations, and the mentors and peer mentors who work with them.

### **What student learning outcomes do you anticipate and are there opportunities for professional development?**

The intern will learn about and experience best practice mentoring strategies while working with diverse at-risk populations. They will have the opportunity to engage in hands-on learning, while practicing program development

and evaluation. Throughout the internship, the student will be engaging with a diverse range of stakeholders and community partners. They will build professional relationships while practicing their networking skills while in a supportive environment.

**Do you have a specific mentor style that you would like to share with potential interns?**

We want the intern to feel like they have ownership over their internship, and that they can shape the project to best suit their strengths. The mentors will work collaboratively with the intern, while still maintaining the integrity of the mentoring program. Lisa and Diana will provide support and guidance, while also allowing the intern to be the main driver on this experience and their project.

**Are travel funds available? Opportunities to provide student assistance with housing?**

There are funds available through Jefferson County Extension for expenses incurred while performing the duties of this position.