**Mentors:**

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**Abstract:**

The COVID-19 pandemic has had devastating effects on youth populations. The pandemic has exacerbated certain social challenges and barriers, while also creating new ones. In the past year CSU Extension has conducted a large needs assessment throughout Colorado. Denver Extension has used CSU Extension’s need assessment framework to interview key stakeholders, and analyze and synthesis community reports to further uncover the needs of people in Denver. In the area of youth, several topics were identified through our needs assessment including: mental health, connection with the outdoors, healthy living, career exploration, and science education.

The scope of the internship will focus on analyzing the topics identified in the CSU Denver Extension needs assessment and creating summer programming and camps that align with these topics. Topics might include STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math), natural resources, healthy living, and outdoor education. The intern will be involved in all steps of the program planning, delivery and evaluation. Additionally, the intern will also work on creating program outreach and marketing plans, and evaluating the program using both quantitative and qualitative data collection.

There are several frameworks, readings, models, and tools that will help the intern learn about this process and aid in their program design (thrive model, positive youth development model, Common Measures, logic models, etc.). Using all these models and tools, the intern will put them into action when they plan and deliver their program. Additionally, using evaluation tools (pre- and post-test surveys) the intern will help us determine if outcomes were met and how we can improve in the future.

Denver 4-H works and collaborates with a plethora of community stakeholders including Denver Parks and Recreation, Denver Libraries, Denver Public Schools, and many community nonprofits. The intern will also work closely with all Denver 4-H staff, CSU Denver Extension staff, and Colorado 4-H staff from neighboring counties. We often provide intercounty camps.

The internship will provide hands-on learning and opportunities for the student to build communication skills, teamwork, graphic design, problem solving and critical thinking, and the development of work habits. Throughout the summer the intern will learn how to communicate with diverse audiences, community stakeholders and partners. In addition, students will increase their knowledge of youth serving organizations in Denver as well interact heavily with a wide range of stakeholders. As a result, the intern will build professional relationships and grow their professional network in order to obtain additional opportunities in the future.