**Title**: Addressing Misinformation about Pandemic Disease in Colorado

**Mentor**: Ashley A. Anderson, Associate Professor, Department of Journalism and Media Communication, College of Liberal Arts

**Extension**: The Faculty Mentor is requesting assistance from the Extension Internship Program to match to an appropriate Extension Agency.

**Location**: Fort Collins, with possible travel to additional locations based on the Extension office with which the project is matched.

**Goals, scope, and objectives**: The goal of this project is to support community-based research on misinformation around pandemic disease in Colorado. The intern will be responsible for working with extension agents to identify members in the community who can speak to recent experiences with pandemic disease misinformation. Potential stakeholders include community leaders from business, education, public health, and technology sectors. The intern will work with mentors to interview and document these experiences as case studies that identify top concerns of misinformation within that community, drivers of misinformation, as well as trusted sources for correcting misleading information. Potential documentation products include multimedia outputs (e.g., audio, video), social media materials, and written reports. These materials may be used in future curriculum development on scientist-community training in misinformation prevention and correction.

**Background:** This is part of an interdisciplinary project across the Departments of Journalism and Media Communication and Microbiology, Immunology, and Pathology to bring together community partners from around the state in different sectors, including business, public health, education, and technology, to address misinformation.

**Outcome**: By the end of the project, the intern will develop important skills related to (1) practicing communicating on controversial health topics, (2) conducting community-based research on topics of health communication, and (3) development of documentation practices of community member perspectives health topics.

**Mentorship**: This faculty mentor will meet weekly with the intern and facilitate connection with local stakeholders. The mentor will support the research behind the communication product development. This faculty mentor style engages frequent communication in order to facilitate a successful flexible and open-ended approach this project requires due to the rapidly shifting state of the Covid-19 pandemic and misinformation. The communication skill set of the intern will be taken into account when finalizing details of the project scope related to case study documentation. The project will strive to create an environment where the student feels comfortable asking questions, requesting help, offering suggestions, etc.

**Travel**: Travel within the state will be covered.