

2022 CSU Extension Internship Proposal

“Spanish in Professional Environments”

Faculty Contact Information:

Andrea Purdy
Associate Professor of Spanish
Dept. of Languages, Literatures and Cultures
College of Liberal Arts
andrea.purdy@colostate.edu

Nyssa Knarvik
Assistant Professor of Spanish
Dept. of Languages, Literatures and Cultures
College of Liberal Arts
nyssa.knarvik@colostate.edu

Extension Mentors:

1. Glenda Wentworth
2. Dennis Kaan, Karen Ramey-Torres and Peggy Stoltenberg

In what region(s) will the student be working (county/region)?

Intern #1 - Remote & Eagle County.

Intern #2 - Remote & Washington County

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

The goal of this internship is to assist with analysis and improvement of Spanish in professional work environments. This work will include, but not be limited to, research involving an analysis of need of Spanish language skills in the fields of health care, law enforcement and legal services, and social work. In this part of the internship, the intern will assist in interviewing professionals (in English) in these fields about the interaction they have with Spanish speakers and their language skill needs in their particular professions. The intern will also assist in interviewing Spanish-speaking community members (in Spanish) about their interactions with professionals in these fields. These interviews will then be transcribed and the needs of specific professions will be categorized. The internship will also consist of reading a variety of pertinent literature pertaining to research in this field. The objectives of this research are to better understand how and when professionals in these careers need and use Spanish in professional interactions. Other internship duties may include Spanish/English translation.

How was this applied research project identified?

Colorado has a large population of Spanish speakers who are in need of basic services such as health care, legal services, and social work. This research aims to empirically examine the ways in which these services are or are not successfully provided to Spanish speakers. The results of this research will be used to make recommendations to improve the services offered to Spanish speakers in these areas.

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

The intern will work with many stakeholders: professionals in these fields, Spanish-speaking community member, as well as faculty and students in various professional fields.

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

Anticipated learning outcomes may include: identifying stakeholders, interviewing stakeholders, transcribing interviews, compiling data, categorizing data and translation skills. Professional development opportunities include: interview skills, professional networking, transcription, data analysis and translation skills.