**Planning, Implementing, and Evaluating Youth Programming with Jefferson County 4-H Program**

**CSU Faculty/Staff Mentor:**

Ruben Flores,Extension Specialist, 4-H Youth Development, Ruben.Flores@colostate.edu (970) 491-2590

**Extension Based Mentors**:

Diana Solenberger, 4-H Youth Development Agent, dsolenbe@jeffco.us (303) 271-6620

Josey Pukrop, 4-H Youth Development Agent

jpukrop@jeffco.us (303) 271- 6620

**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, both for the Youth and Families with Promise (YFP) Mentoring program, and for the Jefferson County 4-H Outreach Program. Key activities will include working with the mentees and families at the mentoring sites, planning implementing and evaluating weekly STEM based activities that can taught at mentoring program meetings and, and outreach programs at local low-income housing sites. The intern will coordinate a STEM based summer camp and, and events and activities for 4-H members and YFP mentees at the Jefferson County Fair. Ruben Flores, the campus-based mentor will work directly with the intern to help them develop these new and innovative programs, both for the weekly mentoring meetings, outreach program and for the STEM based summer camp. The intern will also develop an evaluation tool using 4-H Common Measures to assess the success of the weekly outreach program activities, and the STEM day camp.

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

A key goal of the Jeffco 4-H outreach program is to expand our program into new and underserved populations. Since STEM activities are the foundation of the outreach program, it would be hugely beneficial to the program to create a tool to measure comfort and enjoyment of STEM concepts, particularly for the non-traditional 4-H population. 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?**

The main stakeholder groups for this internship are youth who are predominantly from underserved populations, both through the YFP mentoring program and the wider 4-H outreach program. The two YFP program sites are Title 1 schools that reside in low-income areas of the county. YFP and 4-H 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 more. The students and families are dealing with poverty, gangs, bullying, and truancy as well.

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

The intern will learn about and experience best practice mentoring and teaching 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. Diana and Josey 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.