

UIHI's Ace Summer Public Health Interns

The summer of 2017 brought a set of super star interns to the Urban Indian Health Institute. This is a short introduction to our intern trio. Alexa Fay, Katherine Ly, and Alyssa Longee made it possible for the UIHI to analyze more data and develop new materials and media for American Indian and Alaska Native communities than expected this summer. Thank you, thank you!



Alexa Fay is a student at Washington State University majoring in Nursing – after graduation, she plans to work as a community health nurse, with an emphasis on serving immigrants and other minority groups. Her experience as a Public Health Intern with the UIHI has allowed her to learn about existing health disparities in the urban American Indian and Alaska Native community and how these disparities are being addressed through culturally-sensitive research, health trend analysis, and healthcare. The internship has provided her an opportunity to strengthen research, analysis, and editing skills, and she is excited to apply these skills when providing quality healthcare to a diverse population. Her main project has focused Communities of Practice (CoP), and investigating how they can be used for AI/AN communities as well as in public health. Through the project, she has created a literature review summarizing Communities of Practice and their presence in different types of communities, and a toolkit outlining important steps to assist organizations in establishing and maintaining culturally-sensitive

CoP.



Katherine Ly is pursuing a Masters of Public Health at the University of Washington in Environmental and Occupational Health and a Global Women, Adolescents, and Children certificate. Prior to UW, she served as a Wellness Intern and Resident Advisor at Wesleyan University, where she received her Bachelor's in Neuroscience & Behavior and Science in Society. She is interested in the interface between science and population health and is motivated by her family and neighbors to explore cross cultural care in addressing health disparities. She also volunteers with Seattle Children's hospital and is a Gates Millennium Scholar. As a Public Health Trainee at the Urban Indian Health Institute, Katherine works with mentors to learn about the incredibly resilient culture and history of the AI/AN people, and the importance of decolonizing data to reclaim knowledge and highlight strengths of this population. Her practicum project this summer focuses on food deserts and food sovereignty movements in the state of Washington. She is completing a literature review on the history and emergence of

food deserts and food sovereignty and their implications for food security and health in AI/AN communities. With wisdom from mentors and findings, a Story Map of successful food

sovereignty movements and food desert maps in Washington will be created. She is also helping to update Community Health Profiles.



Alyssa Longee is a member of the Sisseton Sioux division of the Fort Peck Reservation and a senior at the Washington State University College of Bachelor of Nursing program. She is driven towards pursuing her doctorate degree following graduation and working as a Nurse Practitioner. Alyssa is fluent in American Sign Language and has been actively involved in the hearing-impaired community for 6 years. She contacted the Urban Indian Health Institute to learn more about AI/AN public health services, program evaluation, and research. The UIHI experience has allowed her to explore ways that she might contribute to the improvement of health care and reducing the prevalence of health disparities among the AI/AN population. She has worked with UIHI staff and leadership on a variety of projects including construction of the [Good Health](#)

[and Wellness in Indian Country](#) (GHWIC) ArcGIS interactive Storymap. Alyssa reviews evaluation reports, success stories, projects and data collected from GHWIC grantees and composes summaries along with multimedia products such as videos, photos, website links, brochures and other materials to showcase the many success stories. She has also been reviewing literature on social networks methods to identify ways to make visible the role of building key partnerships in GHWIC health promotion efforts. Her experience with UIHI has introduced her to potential career paths and paved new interests in future endeavors.