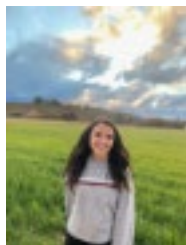


During Fall 2020, public health undergraduate student interns collaborated with health department staff and Zuckerman College of Public Health faculty and staff to complete community engagement projects on behalf of the Academic Health Department Initiative. The students created a blog summarizing their experiences.



## **Kendra Claridge**

**Hometown:** Thatcher, AZ

The purpose of my internship with MEZCOPH's Office of Community Engagement and Outreach was to formalize an Academic Health Department with Graham County Public Health Department. I am from Graham County (Thatcher) and thought it would be a great opportunity to work with my local health department, share resources, and give back to my community. My preceptor and I met with Graham County Health Department Director and he expressed interest in collaboration with MEZCOPH to address the opioid crisis in the county. After understanding the needs of the county, we partnered with the Center for Rural Health, which provides resources to people living in rural and underserved communities. I organized a meeting with The Center for Rural Health, MEZCOPH's Office of Community Engagement and Outreach, and Graham County Substance Abuse Coalition, and Graham County Public Health Department to discuss opportunities for partnership to implement programs and resources available through MEZCOPH and Graham County to address the opioid crisis.

Along with working to establish an Academic Health Department in Graham County, I also developed a Graphics Library accessible through MEZCOPH's Office of Community Engagement and Outreach website. I created a Graphics Library webpage to display all of the infographics created by current and previous interns in collaboration with public health researchers and health department staff. Content for the graphics is driven by the health priorities of each community and serve as a tool to communicate public health information to specific populations. I grouped the infographics in the graphic library into categories, so the infographics can be easily found and downloaded for use by anyone. I also regularly updated the webpage as new infographics were created.

Additionally, I developed the fall 2020 Academic Health Department Intern page. This included updating the website with the information for each student, as well as a picture for each intern, so that people can get to know a little bit about each of us. I also assisted in reorganizing the layout of the Academic Health Department Website to make the information easily accessible.

My internship has been a great experience and I am learning new skills as I partner with various public health professionals. I will continue my internship in the spring and am very excited to continue to work with the Graham County Health Department and MEZCOPH faculty and staff. The Academic Health Department internship has been a great opportunity to form connections with people in the public health world and see the type of work they do every day.

## Academic Health Department Graphics Library

These graphics were created by students at the University of Arizona, as part of the Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health's Academic Health Department, in collaboration with local health departments.

These graphics are available for printing and distribution for health departments and community organizations.

*The AHD Graphics Library - a resource available to our partners and the general public!*