

**UNMC, College of Public Health**  
**Applied Practice Experience (APEX) Opportunities**

**Partner organization name:** Health Center Association of Nebraska

**Partner organization website:** <https://hcanebraska.org/>

**Partner organization brief description:**

Health Center Association of Nebraska: <https://youtu.be/uUxKIW32-4I>

- Provides technical assistance and training to community health centers
- Networks with organizations at the regional and national level for healthcare excellence and equity
- Promotes healthcare workforce development, recruitment and retention
- Provides guidance to transform operations and how care is delivered
- Partners with communities to expand services and meet the needs of the medically underserved
- Educates Nebraskans on the mission, services and value of community health centers
- Promotes the cost-effective delivery of affordable, quality primary health care services, with a special emphasis on meeting the needs of uninsured, low income and medically underserved populations

**Partner organization's point of contact name and email:**

Rachel Heinz MPH, BSN, RN – Director of Programs

[Rlh@hcanebraska.org](mailto:Rlh@hcanebraska.org)

**Description of partner organization's priority opportunities (APEX activities):**

We are specifically looking for a student to support the following activity:

- HCAN will develop a toolkit on care coordination best practices including but not limited to:
  - Documentation best practices and how best to close the loop on external referrals.
  - Processes needed to follow up on external referrals to medical consults and social services agencies that are complex and require consistent documentation to facilitate true team-based care.

The toolkit will be disseminated widely amongst health center staff who regularly work in care coordination positions. The tool kit will also be presented in associated peer learning networks.

Clinical experience to support this activity is a plus.

In addition to gaining experience working a grant activity benefiting health center employees, APEX students will be provided the opportunity to shadow all HCAN staff to understand different public health career pathways.

**Timeframe of proposed activities:**

Spring 2025

**Benefit of proposed activities to partner organization:**

\*Note—An affiliation agreement will be required prior to student engagement

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- Student support of the listed activities will allow our team to achieve more objectives on behalf of our community health centers by expanding our internal capacity.
- Student involvement is important for our staff satisfaction and morales – we look forward to sharing our expertise with students and setting them up for success.

**Benefit of proposed activities to the student:**

- Students completing their APEX at HCAN can expect to gain an in-depth understanding of community health centers and their role in meeting the health needs of underserved communities.
- Students can expect exposure to a wide variety of activities that will allow them to develop their public health skills within a highly supportive team of professionals.

**Skill sets of students requested:**

- Eager to learn
- Adaptability
- Willingness to work with underserved populations

**Additional Information** (format of preferred engagement-virtual, hybrid, in-person; partner organization's location):

In-person preferred (located in West Omaha)