Dear Prospective Practicum Site Host:

A.T. Still University (ATSU) was founded in 1892 and is known as the birthplace of osteopathic medicine. ATSU is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The University has campuses in Kirksville, Missouri, and Mesa, Arizona, and includes six schools: Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine, the School of Osteopathic Medicine in Arizona, the College of Graduate Health Studies, the Arizona School of Health Sciences, the Arizona School of Dentistry and Oral Health, and the Missouri School of Dentistry and Oral Health.

The College of Graduate Health Studies educates and prepares current and future health professionals for management positions in a variety of healthcare settings. Our goal is to provide comprehensive and relevant health management instruction through quality, innovative, online education.

The Masters in Public Health (MPH) is a 64-credit-hour, 16-course program that includes a 240-hour practicum offered by the College of Graduate Health Studies. This reflects the belief that public health policy and management is an applied discipline. The MPH practicum is the culmination of the master’s program, allowing the student to apply and test the theories, skills, and knowledge acquired in the academic setting. Practical application of skills and knowledge is an essential part of professional degree programs, offering learning opportunities not available in classrooms. The best practica prepare students for employment in public health policy and management or, in the case of those employed in some other capacity in the health field, for advancement. The MPH program has been accredited by the Council on Education in Public Health (CEPH).

The MPH practicum project focuses on an applied topic in public health policy and management, similar to a master’s thesis in other academic programs. Students are expected to produce an original, applied public health report, the length of which will vary, depending upon the specific of the project. The Final Practicum Report should demonstrate expertise in the chosen topic and strong analytical, writing, and teamwork skills. The Final Practicum Report is a valuable part of a student’s professional portfolio and should make a significant contribution to the sponsoring organization. Examples of practicum projects could include designing a workforce wellness program, assessing the effectiveness of an immunization initiative, etc.

It is critical to the education process and our discipline to identify appropriate health and health-related sites that wish to work collaboratively to educate our future leaders in health. I would appreciate your consideration of hosting an MPH practicum student from ATSU. If I can provide any additional information, or assist in any way, please contact me at gloeben@atsu.edu.

Sincerely,

Greg Loeben, PhD
Associate Professor & MPH Practicum Coordinator
Public Health Programs, ATSU College of Graduate Health Studies