

# **PROPOSAL FOR DIETETIC INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY FOR EXTENSION EMPLOYEES**

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# **VISION:**

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**Provide community access to  
RD's through  
Cooperative Extension System**

# **MISSION:**

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**Optimize and empower Extension Foods and Nutrition Agents/Specialists by providing an opportunity to become RD's, thereby supplying an alternate route for students' needs**

# **MISSION:** CONTINUED

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- **Meet competencies through the approval of CADE (Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education)**
- **Twelve hundred (1200) supervised practice hours under an RD**
- **Collaborative arrangement in a clinical setting, i.e., hospital, nursing home, to meet competencies**
- **May obtain experience through cyberspace or an acute-care facility, such as a kidney dialysis, cancer center**

# **BENEFITS TO EXTENSION:**

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## **MULTIPLIERS EFFECT:**

- Provide a pool of Extension staff with evidence-based knowledge through research and training with access to ADA's Evidence Analysis Library (EAL)**
- Enhance their opportunity to serve as preceptors, for future practices, thus enlarging the pool of students' awareness of Extension employment opportunities in community nutrition**

# EXTENSION: CONTINUED

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- **Supervised experience in the community setting, i.e., the Nutrition Care Process, Head Start students, Homemakers in the EFNEP program, SNAP-ED, WIC, or partners/collaborators on grants:**
  - ❖ Obesity
  - ❖ Care Givers Grant
  - ❖ Rural Health
  - ❖ Physical Activity/Health
  - ❖ Food Safety
- **Increases credibility of the organization's ability to provide evidence-based scientific information as a part of the patient-centered health care team**

# CHALLENGE:

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## Obtaining clinical experience to meet the 600 hours requirement

- Cyberspace and/or acute-care facility, kidney dialysis, cancer center
- Collaborative arrangements in a clinical setting, i.e., hospital, nursing home
- Simulated certificate programs
- Obtain CADE approval for direct Extension internship, not by computer selection (match)

# CHALLENGE:

## CONTINUED

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### **Develop self-study document for CADE**

- FNCE Session in Denver on “How to write a self-study.” Need volunteer to attend.

### **Establish rotation sites**

**Decide on length of internship** - 9 months, 12 months, 18 months

**Option 1.** Decide on whether to use on-line internship as model (students must select their own clinical rotation sites and work out details).

# CHALLENGE:

## CONTINUED

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**Option 2** – Students must be on location to do the internship.

**Advantage** is that it is easier to manage.

**Disadvantage:** Student may have to relocate for short periods of time. Added expense. Contract must be obtained for each agency/person serving as preceptor.

**Develop lesson plans/modules for students**

On-line examples (46)

# COST:

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**Each state would be responsible for the cost of their employee to become an intern.**

## **Full-time employee:**

- One-half salary (work full time)
- One-half professional development – community nutrition work experience to meet the competency
- Complete Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) courses, if needed, beyond degree to supplement course work to sit for the RD exam

# COST:

CONTINUED

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**Students must keep internship log of hours worked**

**Study course** – preparation for exam, if needed

**Internship Director:** A state leader/RD must be designated. Explore teaming with State Child Nutrition Programs or other state agency, i.e., WIC, to form a joint internship

# **INTERNSHIP ELIGIBILITY:**

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**Masters and doctorate degrees in Nutrition, Foods and/or Health, or a closely related field**

**Bachelor's degrees on a case-by-case basis**

**Note: We need to have students pass RD exam at an 80% rate.**

# NEXT STEPS:

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## Organize an Advisory Board

- State FCS Leader
- Hospital/VA
- Universities
- Grocery Store Administrators
- Council on Aging
- Long-term Care Facilities
- School lunch programs
- Home Health Agencies
- Food Service Companies
- Insurance Commissioners
- WIC
- State Department of Public Health
- State Department of Human Resources
- Medicare/Medicaid

# NEXT STEPS:

CONTINUED

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## Identify Possible Sites

- Hospitals
- Home Health Agencies
- Community Health Centers
- Nursing Homes

# QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

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## REVIEWED:

- Judith L. Dodd, MS, R.D., F.A.D.A., Professor, University of Pittsburg Medical Center
- Mary Pt Raimondi, MS, R.D., University of Minnesota Cooperative Extension
- Laura Wright, Ph.D., R.D., Former Internship Director, V.A. Medical Center, Tampa, FL
- Jean Weese, Ph.D., R.D., Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Auburn University
- Karen Ghert, R.D., Ed.D., Associate Director, Family and Consumer Sciences, Virginia Cooperative Extension
- Ulric K. Chung, Ph.D., AB, MCS, Executive Director of the Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education
- Mary Kay Meyer, Ph.D., Education Specialist, Child Nutrition, Alabama Department of Education
- Ada M. Carrasquillo, Ph.D., Nutritionist, EFNEP Coordinator, University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez Campus, Cooperative Extension Services, San Juan, P.R.