

Date: March 5, 2012

RE: Funding to Develop Academic Health Departments

TO: Will Humble, M.P.H.  
Director  
Arizona Department of Health Services

Dear Will,

The mission of the Arizona Public Health Training Center (AZPHTC) is “to assess, develop and deliver responsive competency based training to current and future public health, professionals, community leaders and community partners through community engagement, education and training activities that strengthen the public health infrastructure.” One of the strategies that the AZPHTC plans to use to accomplish this mission is to facilitate the development of academic health departments (AHDs). According to the Public Health Foundation, “an academic health department represents a formal affiliation between an academic health professions institution and a state, local or tribal health department. This relationship is the public health equivalent of the “teaching hospital” affiliation found between medical schools and hospitals. AHD collaborations can enhance public health education and training, research, and service and may offer a variety of benefits that extend beyond the organizations involved to the community as a whole.”

The AzPHTC would like to collaborate with four health departments or organizations, including community-health centers through funded internship projects to address their identified concerns and to foster cross-organizational infrastructure. This will allow us to jointly identify “best practices” and to subsequently share this experience with other local and tribal health departments through the AzPHTC website and a community of practice. These projects also aim to assist MEZCOPH in efforts to increase the number of graduating students with degrees in public health who are competent to work in underserved communities.

The AzPHTC will provide financial support to cover student stipends, and other expenses for these internships. Each internship project will receive up to \$4,000 in support. Internship sites selected in the first round of funding will also be given preference for a second year of funding upon successful completion of internship projects.

To be eligible for the internship funds, please complete the attached application and return it to the AZPHTC by the end of March.

Email to Maribel Tobar: [matobar@email.arizona.edu](mailto:matobar@email.arizona.edu)

Thank you very much for facilitating the development of academic health departments. Please feel free to contact me if you need further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Douglas Taren". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'n'.

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**AZPHTC Academic Health Department  
Request for Internship Funds**

**Date of Application:**

**Dates (proposed start and end) for Internship:**

**Title of Project:**

**Collaborating Institutions or Agencies:**

**Name of Preceptor:**

**Preceptor's contact information (email and phone):**

**Purpose of Project:**

**Activities and Methods (What will be done):**

**Planned Outcomes:**

**How will the Project expand and strengthen the infrastructure and workforce of the health agency:**

**Provide student and advising faculty information if known:**

**Student Name:**

**Concentration:**

**Faculty Advisor:**

**GRA Advisor (if different):**