

**CWSGR Internship:** Rural Health Partnership of North Central Florida

**Contact Person:** Kendra Siler-Marsiglio, Ph.D.

**Address:** 1785 NW 80 Blvd, Gainesville FL 32606

**Phone:** work (352-313-6500 ext. 109) or cell (904-318-5803)

**Best time to call:** if using work phone no.: early morning ~9:00 A.M.; use cell other times during the day.

**Email address:** [Kendrasm@wellflorida.org](mailto:Kendrasm@wellflorida.org)

**Website:** [wellflorida.org](http://wellflorida.org)

**Brief description/mission:** **Rural Health Partnership of North Central Florida (RHP)** is one of the nine state-certified rural health networks. This non-profit was incorporated in 1996 to support rural healthcare professionals in the field so they can more easily accommodate the healthcare needs of rural Floridians. RHP's mission is to work cooperatively to improve the health of residents in its service area through health promotion, disease prevention, and the provision of accessible, affordable health care of measurable quality. Our parent company is **WellFlorida Council, Inc.**

**Number of Hours/Credits:** flexible and can offer internships for anywhere from 1 to 3 credits.

**Schedule Requirements:** Interns set their own schedules; location is flexible. In some cases, interns may work at a partner facility—such as one of the health departments or intern may travel to several locations.

**Prerequisites/Qualifications:** The only qualifications required for our internship are knowledge about and interest in the issues our organization deals with; a good attitude and professional demeanor; and willingness to work.

**What activities will the intern take part in, and how do they relate to Women's/Gender studies?**

Although we will help the intern with any questions, resources, contacts, and logistical needs to complete his or her project, the intern is the key creative source of the work. We help the intern develop a project that he or she is passionate about and we provide support, guidance, and gas cards if the intern needs to travel. The intern will not be doing admin work for us. In other words, if the intern is the type of person that likes a high level of autonomy, then the RHP is a good match.

The RHP deals with ANY rural healthcare needs. Interns can focus on areas such as childhood obesity, teen pregnancy, domestic violence, migrant workers, infant mortality, breast cancer and other womens' health issues, the uninsured, poor access to emergency care (e.g., if a rural Floridian has a stroke, they have to travel up to an hour by ambulance to the ER), aging parents... the list goes on. My vision for the RHP is to start telling and showing people's stories—to supplement quantitative data. A strong emotional connection to challenges faced by rural Floridians has not yet been made by the vast majority of people—particularly politicians. The suffering that occurs in rural America—by the people that put food on our tables and make the items we use daily—will go largely unnoticed until emotional connections are made.

**Requirements:**

In most cases, the intern must be good with people, because he or she will likely have to build relationships with many rural residents. Interns should have some proclivity for healthcare and wellness. Volunteer or work experience in the health field or health policy is helpful. Good research and writing skills are recommended because any qualitative work (e.g., surveys, interviews, photos, video) must be fused with data in a meaningful way. If the intern wants to research migrant workers' experiences, speaking and/or reading Spanish is recommended.