Southwest Pennsylvania Environmental Health Project (EHP) Outreach and Policy Research Intern

About EHP:

The Southwest Pennsylvania Environmental Health Project (EHP) is a nonprofit environmental health organization created to assist and support residents of Washington County (PA) and beyond who believe their health has been, or could be, impacted by unconventional oil and gas development (UOGD). The mission of EHP is to respond to individuals’ and communities’ need for access to accurate, timely and trusted public health information and health services associated with UOGD.

To pursue this mission, EHP’s activities include:

• Conducting health assessments of residents near UOGD activities;
• Disseminating resources for residents to reduce psycho-social impacts, especially stress, that increase with the growth of UOGD activities nearby;
• Implementing a UOGD-related health registry to track individual’s health impacts over time;
• Assisting residents with air and water quality monitoring to provide an understanding of environmental contaminants that may impact health;
• Analyzing collected emissions and health assessment data together to identify correlations that suggest hypotheses for further academic research; and
• Organizing to raise PA healthcare professional awareness of UOGD-related health impacts and to promote appropriate health-protective policies.

To accomplish these activities, EHP has assembled a multidisciplinary team including health care professionals, air and water emissions experts, and community organizers. EHP’s main office is located in McMurray, PA, about 20 miles south of Pittsburgh. In addition to the 4 full-time and 5-6 part-time staff who work in this office, there are consultants to our project in New Haven, CT, various locations in ME, and in CA. For more information about our work, see our website: http://www.environmentalhealthproject.org/.

Position overview:

This position includes work on three separate but related projects:

1. EHP has recently completed a project that developed materials to assist residents faced with psycho-social impacts in four counties (Beaver, Greene, Washington, and Westmoreland) in southwest PA. The intern will work with the project supervisor to implement a dissemination plan that includes identifying
grassroots organizations willing to distribute materials to their membership and public agencies and business in these counties where the materials can be accessible to regional residents. Other dissemination activities will include participation in local health fairs and other events where materials can be provided and discussed. The intern will participate in EHP’s Outreach Team meetings to develop additional outreach strategies on psych-social issues.

2. EHP is engaged in recruiting community members to enlist in a web-based UOGD health registry and response system. The intern will serve on EHP’s team that conducts outreach to regional and national community-based organizations with membership or other contact with residents whose health may be impacted by UOGD. Once organizations’ agreement to assist with enrolling registry participants is secured, the intern will help design and disseminate materials that can be used for such recruitment.

3. EHP sees a need to expand its efforts to promote appropriate health-protective policies at the local, state, and regional levels. The intern will conduct research on existing public policies in PA and other states and countries with significant UOGD activity to assist the EHP team members in developing policy recommendations.

Knowledge, skills, and abilities:

- Strong verbal and written communication skills to support the recruitment of participation in the health registry and response system and EHP programming;
- Excellent research and analysis skills, especially as in public policy development;
- Ability to work both independently and as part of a team with other EHP members;
- Ability to manage multiple projects in a fast-paced environment;
- Familiarity with Microsoft Office (with knowledge of web/graphic design a plus); and
- Competence in use of social media tools (especially Facebook and Twitter).

Hours: Flexible within M-F, 8:30am – 5:30pm.

Compensation: Some travel reimbursement and a small stipend (payable at the end of each semester) is available.