

College of Nursing

Summer Research Opportunities for Undergraduate Women

Application DEADLINE: March 1, 2013

The College of Nursing is pleased to offer the following research project for the summer of 2013. Interested students are urged to contact the faculty member directing the project that most interests them. By contacting the faculty member, you can discover more about the project, learn what your responsibilities will be and, if possible, develop a timetable for the twelve-week research period.

PROJECT TITLE: Partnering for Peace on the Streets of the Avondale Community

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This ethnographic and community based participatory action research mixed methods qualitative study will investigate the culture/subculture of adolescent pre-gang groups in the Avondale Community. An ethnographic methodology will explore the cultural beliefs, values, practices and daily lives of selected African American adolescents from 10-16 years of age in order to better understand the structure and function of the group; how they become organized and choose their leaders and what leads them from groups to gangs where criminal activity, including violence begins. Themes will be extracted from the data with the aid of NVivo qualitative data analysis software that will explain how the participants live their lives and particularly what challenges they face on a daily basis. The second part of the study will use community based participatory action research methodology to assist in developing prevention strategies by the study participants, community leaders and former gang members that may significantly lessen the number of adolescents leaving the groups to become gang members. The study participants targeted in this proposal have not been sought by other initiative within the community and it offers a way to stop violence before it escalates making Avondale a safer and more vibrant community in which to live and may eliminate or greatly diminish a health disparity identified in African Americans.

Areas of this project in which the WISE undergraduate student would likely be an active participant include assistance in obtaining informed consent, interviewing participants, interacting with the participants within the context of the community environment and keeping field notes related to these activities, transcribing data from the interviews and entering data in the NVivo software package. In addition, they may be asked to schedule interviews, do follow-up phone calls as needed and interact with all members of the research team as needed. Looking up community data, police reports, and conducting limited literature searches may also be a part of the project. Specific training will be provided for the appropriate means of gaining consent, conducting ethnographic interviews, writing field data notes, and entering data into NVivo qualitative data software package.