

Meet the Fellow

Demetria Yoder

Host Lab: New Jersey Division of Public Health and Environmental Laboratories

Degree of Study: Master's in health informatics with a concentration in health data science

Graduation: October 2023

School: University of Illinois - Chicago

What is your educational background?

I earned my bachelor's in Human Physiology with a minor in Statistics from the University of Iowa and went on to complete my master's in health informatics with a concentration in health data science.

What brought you into laboratory science?

A public health laboratory sounded like a great opportunity to combine my science and data science background.

How did you hear about the Public Health Laboratory Fellowship Program?

Through a colleague at the Minnesota Department of Health.

How did this fellowship match or exceed your expectations?

I did not know what to expect from this fellowship, but the range of experiences my mentor opened me up to exceeded my expectations. I was originally assigned a specific project, but as the fellowship progressed, I gained experience in many other areas. This exposure helped me better understand what I enjoy working on.

Tell us what you learned from your mentor.

Having a mentor who encourages independence and learning through trial and error was a key aspect of how this fellowship has shaped me. I have always believed strongly in learning how to learn, and my mentor demonstrated an effective balance between guidance and independent problem solving.

Tell us about your project assignments/laboratory roles.

My primary role is supporting the implementation of a new Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS). I work within the Data Management and Analysis department, where I have also taken on roles



across other projects and daily responsibilities. These include data analysis, serving as a technical support lead, programming, data feed generation, and quality checks.

How has your internship experience inspired you?

My fellowship has inspired me to seek out opportunities that pique my interest in order to discover not only what I'm best at, but also what I'm most passionate about.

How would you describe the APHL Fellowship to other students?

To me, the APHL fellowship was a great bridge between school and professional life. It allows you to explore different areas of public health while also gaining experience to help propel you into the workforce.

Aside from the laboratory and the science, did you gain any other beneficial life experiences?

Moving across the country for this fellowship was scary and uncertain, but it has paid off tenfold. Immersing myself in the unknown has benefited me both personally and professionally in ways I did not expect.