

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services
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Psychology doctoral internship program at Fargo human service center reaccredited and helping to build the behavioral health workforce

BISMARCK, N.D. – The American Psychological Association (APA) granted a seven-year accreditation to a North Dakota Department of Human Services' psychology training program that is a vital part of behavioral health workforce development efforts in the state.

The APA has granted the psychology Doctoral Internship Program at Southeast Human Service Center (SEHSC) in Fargo accreditation through 2021 - the longest accreditation term granted by APA.

Program training director and psychologist Sara Quam said the human service center created an internship program in 2001 with the goals of growing the behavioral health workforce, while meeting the training needs of pre-doctoral interns and the behavioral health needs of the community.

The program was granted Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC) membership in 2004, and the APA first granted it accreditation in 2009.

“We’ve been pleased, at Southeast, with our program’s ability to attract high quality emerging professionals for internship training, and even more satisfied to have a number of them remain in our area following completion of the internship,” Quam said.

As of 2014, 25 interns have completed the program, she said, including eight former interns who have remained in the Fargo area. Two former interns are employed with the department and serve as chief psychologists in regional human service centers.

Quam said the department hopes to continue to build upon this success. The program recently added two full-time internship positions, expanding the program to four year-long internship positions.

Until 2012, the SEHSC internship program was the only APA-accredited program in the state. The reaccreditation followed a self-study and site-visit.

Quam said the APA has shown great support and has commended the state for its efforts to expand behavioral health services through the addition of interns and for its longer-term commitment to increase the number of psychologists practicing in the region.

Information about the training program for doctoral clinical psychology students is online at www.nd.gov/dhs/info/pubs/docs/sehsc-apa-psychology-internship-information.pdf.

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