

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services
600 East Boulevard Avenue, Bismarck ND 58505**

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**Southeast Human Service Center Psychology Internship Program in Fargo
Becomes First North Dakota Program to Earn APA Accreditation**

Program may help address mental health professional shortage in N.D.

BISMARCK, N.D. – One way of addressing North Dakota’s shortage of mental health professionals is to develop talent by attracting and supporting professional training in the state. The North Dakota Department of Human Services announced today that the American Psychological Association (APA) has granted a 5-year accreditation to the Psychology Internship Program at its Southeast Human Service Center (SEHSC) in Fargo. This is the first APA accredited psychology internship program in the state.

“I commend staff for their efforts to secure accreditation,” said department Executive Director Carol K. Olson. “This program is designed to provide a variety of training experiences and to expose the participants to the benefits of practicing psychology in the state.”

North Dakota has 23 counties designated as mental health professional shortage areas. The APA accreditation was part of a strategic plan to enhance recruitment and retention of licensed psychologists who serve people with mental health needs.

The year-long pre-doctoral internship program gives participants specialized clinical training in a number of areas including psychological assessments, individual and group therapy, behavioral analysis, treatment consultations, as well as other assignments. Interns work under close supervision of four licensed clinical psychologists from the human service center.

The internship is a requirement of all clinical or counseling psychology doctoral programs and must be completed to earn the doctoral degree. Applicants chosen to participate must be students in good standing with an APA accredited clinical or counseling program and must be a doctoral candidate.

For more information about the APA accredited Psychology Internship Program, go online to www.nd.gov/dhs/info/pubs/docs/sehsc-apa-psychology-internship-information.pdf or call Dr. Sara Quam, Training Director of the Psychology Internship Program at Southeast Human Service Center at 701-298-4500, TTY 701-298-4450 or Toll Free at 1-888-342-4900.

Questions about the program’s accredited status should be directed to the Commission on Accreditation, Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation, American Psychological Association, 750 First St. NE, Washington, D.C. 20002 or call 202-336-5979, email apaaccred@apa.org, or log on to www.apa.org/addreditation.

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