I was the intern for the two woman maintained Healthy Homes Program with the Environmental Services Department for a year and a half. I began by taking the Master Home Educator training in April of 2015 where I did 20 hours of training on the 7 “Keep It” principles of the programs by professionals in a multitude of fields (HVAC, industrial hygiene, pest management, police, etc.). After being certified, I began doing indoor air quality assessments along with the other 20 volunteers in my class and the previously trained volunteers.

Activities that I was able to participate in during my time with the City included follow-up calls to residents to check the progress of the recommendations made during their assessment, going on assessments, maintaining assessment bags/materials, and creating a quarterly newsletter. Some other outside of routine opportunities includes presenting to different organizations (health care providers, schools, resource centers for families, etc.) or at events that promote high quality of life, participating in committees on behalf of the program, and watching/reading material that is relevant to the program progress.

I did a lot of professional development in terms of speaking to a group with presentations I created, running a meeting, taking meeting minutes, helping set up logistics for the training every April and a lot of customer service type of interactions with residents in assessment and outreach settings. My supervisor was very engaged in my success and what I wanted to get out of the internship. I felt comfortable speaking with her about additions or re-arrangements to make the program more efficient and I am very appreciative for the trust on both ends to do that. All of the people in my department were friendly and so passionate about what their efforts entailed. We had people in our department involved in tackling issues that pertain to air quality, waste diversion, and sustainability which just scratches the surface on the amazing work that’s going on so it was great to get to know these individuals and their projects.

My favorite part of the internship is attending events to talk about the program, I love engaging citizens (young and old) about the importance of indoor air quality and the opportunity to improve quality of life through our program. Everyone who lives in the Fort Collins city limits is eligible for an assessment, so another opportunity I am grateful for is serving a variety of people in locations all over my community.