The past 6 months, I had the pleasure of being a member of the Environmental Health Services department at Colorado State University. Beginning in April, myself along with 6 other new members of the department embarked on a complete chemical inventorying program, as is necessitated by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. What this entailed was a complete review and logging of every stock chemical compound on campus, and an evaluation of proper safety protocol that is associated with the possession of these dangerous compounds.

In short, it was my job to enter every single room in every building on campus to see if there were any chemicals being used for research or educational purposes. If and when we found chemicals in any given room, we would schedule a time to come in and conduct our inventory. When the time came, we would gather our equipment (including full laboratory safety gear) and enter the room to conduct the inventory. We would evaluate each individual bottle of chemicals for adequate containment safety and then would enter the compound, the amount, and any notes that we had regarding each compound into our inventorying software. Once we finished the inventory of all chemicals in the room, we would educate the laboratory's manager on their future inventorying duties and provide them with the necessary equipment to do so. Additionally, we would conduct air quality monitoring and other EH services where we saw fit and upon request.

All in all, this internship was an incredibly valuable and educational experience for me. I gained multiple certifications, and discovered a lot about the world of Environmental Health and Safety. The type of student that would best fit into this kind of internship is someone who is very detail oriented, and who is
primarily interested in environmental safety. That being said, I would definitely recommend this position to any EH student as it can be valuable to anyone who wants to enter the professional world of Environmental Health.