

Undergraduate student mentored research opportunities!

Apply for the Students Participating as Ambassadors for Research in Kentucky (SPARK) Program

WHO: Any UK undergraduate students with at least one academic year left until graduation and a GPA of 2.8 or higher are invited to apply for SPARK. We seek talented students interested in developing research expertise and projects in health equity. Students from underrepresented groups or disadvantaged backgrounds, as defined by the National Institutes of Health (<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-20-031.html>) are especially encouraged to apply.

WHAT: SPARK is a dynamic collaboration between the Center for Health Equity Transformation (CHET) and the Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CTS). You can read more about the program here: <https://www.cts.uky.edu/about-cts/diversity-inclusion/spark-program>. Students will be introduced to community-engaged research focused on health disparities/health equity and receive extensive mentorship. Students will identify a research topic, program leaders will assist in identifying mentors, and students will work with their mentors to develop a project. Students will conduct this project in their home communities over the summer, receiving funds to support their research. After implementing the project, students will meet with their mentors, undertake data analysis and write-up, and present and publish their research in professional settings.

WHEN: Research training will begin in April, 2020 on the UK campus, with research projects taking place June through August of 2020. Research activities continue throughout academic year 2020-2021. All students will present their projects at the annual CTS meeting in April 2021.

WHERE: Research training will take place at the Healthy Kentucky Research Building on the UK campus. Summer projects will be implemented in students' home communities.

RESOURCES AND BENEFITS: Students will receive excellent research training, faculty and community mentorship, workspace for the summer, a generous summer stipend, and ample funds for their research project.

APPLICATION INFORMATION: Please contact Joel Thompson (joel.thompson@uky.edu) by 12 pm on **Thursday March 26, 2020** to initiate the application process. You will be provided instructions to submit your application through our online application system. The required components for your application include: 1) cover letter (limited to one page) outlining your interest in health equity research; 2) resume, including GPA and major; 3) and a list of three professional references with contact information. For more information about SPARK and eligibility, please contact Myles Moody, myles.moody@uky.edu or Ariel Arthur, ariel.arthur@uky.edu.

Resume and cover letter resources: <https://www.uky.edu/careercenter/preparation>