



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HSyE 2014 Summer Internship Program Graduates 26 Students

For its 2014 Summer Internship Program, Northeastern University's Healthcare Systems Engineering Institute (HSyE) accepted 26 students from a pool of 250 applicants, with backgrounds ranging from industrial and bioengineering to pre-med, public health, and health policy. Students from top universities across the U.S. and abroad participated in the twelve-week experiential cohort program, working with health systems in Boston, Seattle, and beyond affiliated with the Institute's four federally-funded centers.

Experiential learning bridges the gap between the classroom and professional work, giving students a taste of working in the "real world". The program provides "exposure to some of the best hospitals in this country. You don't really get that hands-on experience in other internships," said summer intern Jacqueline Falk of SUNY Binghamton. The summer program is developing a future workforce of healthcare improvement leaders who understand the necessity of applying industrial and systems engineering to healthcare. Dr. James Benneyan, founder and director of HSYE, says "This is the cornerstone of what we're trying to accomplish – integrating education, application, and research. The internship program is where that all blends together."

Over the summer, interns worked on at least two applied projects and one research project aligned with their interests. Students were largely responsible for managing and advancing their projects, preparing documents and making presentations to clinicians and researchers. Each intern was assigned two mentors, a PhD student and a healthcare practitioner, who provided additional training, guidance on projects, and advice on education and career paths. In addition to direct work with health systems, students attended two in-services per week about systems engineering and the U.S. health system, facilitated by Dr. James Benneyan, clinician-in-residence Dr. Susan Haas, and other healthcare leaders in the Boston community.

The 2014 summer program concluded in August and many of its graduates continue to work with the Institute from afar while pursuing education and careers in healthcare improvement. The program has benefitted the University with positive press, research collaborations, stronger local connections, and multiple co-publications and grant proposals.

The Healthcare Systems Engineering Institute at Northeastern University is a university-wide academic institute focused on broadly impacting healthcare through the integration of research, application, and education in systems engineering methods. The Institute houses four federally-awarded healthcare industrial and systems engineering centers, two coop and summer intern fellowship programs, and a post-doctoral development program, with core funding from the National Science Foundation, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, National Institutes of Health, Veterans Health Administration, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, and health system partners.

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