The Institute for Health, Health Care Policy, and Aging Research offers Project L/EARN, an exciting program designed to increase graduate school enrollment among students from groups that are traditionally under-represented (African-American, Latino, Native American, and Pacific Islanders) in health-related graduate programs.

We invite sophomore and junior students with an interest in health and/or mental health research to apply to the Project L/EARN Summer 2006 research training program. The summer program is an intensive ten-week internship opportunity for qualified students who would like to obtain research skills and "hands-on" experience in health and mental health research under the guidance of a distinguished faculty mentor. Summer training often leads to involvement in faculty research during the subsequent academic year. Faculty mentors represent a diverse array of disciplines, including health economics, medical sociology, medical anthropology, public health, social work and health psychology; all head vigorous research programs. Each intern will be matched with a faculty mentor whose work is most closely aligned with his or her particular interests, skills, and background.

The core of the summer program is a daily workshop that provides technical training in research methods, study design, data management, and statistical analysis (programming in SPSS & SAS). Project L/EARN has been designated as one of Rutgers University's Graduate Education Preparation Programs. Interns will be provided with GRE preparation, as well as extensive guidance with respect to applying to graduate school.

The internships provide students with a $3,350 stipend, tuition, and room and board for the duration of the ten-week program so that they can "learn while they earn." The program will operate from June 4th to August 12th. Project L/EARN is directed by Professor Peter Guarnaccia and Diane (Deedee) Davis, and is funded by the National Institute of Mental Health, the Institute for Health, Health Care Policy and Aging Research, and Rutgers University.

Applicants will be evaluated by potential mentors and selected on the basis of their academic records and the compatibility of their interests and skills with faculty projects. Applicants must have at least one full academic year left to complete their undergraduate degree, have completed at least one course in statistics or quantitative methods by the time the summer program begins, and be a member of at least one of the ethnic/cultural groups specified above as under-represented. The deadline for applications is February 20, 2006. Awards will be announced by April 7, 2006. Further information about Project L/EARN can be obtained from the website of the Institute for Health, Health Care Policy, and Aging Research
http://www.ihhcpar.rutgers.edu/projectlearn/
COURSES THAT MEET THE STATISTICS/METHODS PREREQUISITE:

*Applicants should complete at least one of the courses listed below (or a comparable course), by the end of the Spring semester 2006:*

Quantitative Methods in Psychology
Research Methods in Psychology
Statistical Methods
Computer Applications in Health Research
Introduction to Social Research
Intermediate Social Research
Computer Analysis of Social Science Data
Basic Statistics for Economics
Statistics
Introductory Statistics for Business
Basic Statistics for Research (Science majors)
Computing and Graphing in Applied Statistics
Introduction to Experimental Design
Basic Statistical Methods for Urban Studies & Community Health
Application of Quantitative Methods
Research Methods in Human Ecology

*Course names may vary*

*If you have taken a statistics or research methods course that does not appear on the list, contact Deedee Davis at (732)932-6581 and be prepared to provide a course syllabus.*
APPLICATION FOR PROJECT L/EARN, SUMMER 2006
THIS PROGRAM IS NOT OPEN TO SENIORS

Last Name

First Name

Permanent Address

Campus Address

Permanent Telephone

Campus Telephone

Email Address

Country of Citizenship

Race

Ethnicity

Age

Gender (for housing purposes)

□ Male

□ Female

Social Security Number

Student ID Number (If different)

Major

GPA W/in Major

2nd Major (If you are double majoring, please specify 2nd here)

GPA W/in 2nd Major

Cumulative GPA

College and/or University

Expected Graduation Date

Accumulated Credits (prior to Spring 2006)

Current sources of financial aid (check all that apply)

__ Pell Grant

__ EOF Grant

__ TAG

__ Loans

__ Other

__ None
The Project L/EARN application consists of a series of five short essays:

**Essay 1: Educational & Career Goals**: Write a brief statement describing your educational and career goals, as well as why you would like to participate in Project L/EARN (1 full page).

**Essay 2: Research Interests**: Write a brief statement describing your research interests, topics you find compelling and would like to pursue. In addition, please describe any research experience, skills, or background you feel is relevant (1 full page).

**Essays 3 - 5: Mentor Selection**. One of the major strengths of Project L/EARN is that it draws on the distinguished faculty of the Institute for Health, Health Care Policy and Aging Research to serve as mentors and teachers of Project L/EARN students. Your faculty mentor participates in your summer training, guiding you through the steps of an independent research project. During the latter portion of the summer, you act as a research assistant working on your mentor's research.

Please read through the bios ketches that follow. Select three faculty members with whom you share research interests. For each faculty member selected, write an essay describing why you would like to train with that faculty member and how your research interests described in essay (#2) overlap with the research interests of that faculty member (1 full page / faculty member).

**Note**: Each faculty member will read your "Educational & Career Goals" essay (#1), your "Research Interests" essay (#2) and the "Mentor Selection" essay which describes your reasons for wishing to work with them. Therefore each "Mentor Selection" essay should be a free-standing statement on a separate page.

Please number all pages in your application, put your name on each page and identify each essay using the following headers, Educational & Career Goals, Research Interests, Mentor Selection (Dr. NAME). Do not include the ranking of you choice in the essay headers.

List the names of the three faculty members below

1st Choice ____________________________

2nd Choice ____________________________

3rd Choice ____________________________

**Attachments**:  
1) Please attach an unofficial copy of your transcript and highlight the prerequisite course. 
2) (Optional). You may attach a sheet listing any faculty, administrators, counselors or supervisors whom we may contact for recommendations. Include the name(s), address(es) and office telephone number(s)

Please attach your essays to this form and return to:

Project L/EARN  
Institute for Health, Health Care Policy and Aging Research  
30 College Avenue, College Avenue Campus  
New Brunswick NJ 08901

The DEADLINE for all materials to reach the Institute is Midnight February 20, 2006. No applications will be considered after this date!
Scott M. Bilder (M.S., Rutgers, 1991; Ph.D. in progress) is a Senior Research Project Manager at the Institute for Health, Health Care Policy, and Aging Research. His research interests include psychometric theory, multi-level modeling, analysis of longitudinal data, and the application of these methods to problems in health services research. His recent publications have appeared in Health Affairs (one on employment outcomes, another on trends in care, for adults with severe mental illness), The Milbank Quarterly (on Social Security benefits for adults with psychiatric disabilities), and Social Service Review (on correlates of psychotropic medication use in youth).

Dr. Susan Brownlee (Ph.D., Rutgers) is a Survey Research Analyst at the Center for State Health Policy at Rutgers University. Dr. Brownlee coordinates survey design and data collection efforts at the Center. Recent projects include the New Jersey Family Health Survey (a comprehensive, statewide survey of over 2,000 NJ families), the NJ State Physician Census, the Willingness to Pay for Health Insurance survey, the NJ Family Care Survey, and the New Brunswick Community Health Survey. She was the Co-PI for a survey study evaluating the Medicaid managed care enrollment experiences of developmentally disabled NJ residents and is currently PI for a study evaluating physician supply for the state of New Jersey (DOBI). Prior to coming to CSHP, Dr. Brownlee was an assistant research professor in health psychology at the Center for Research on Health and Behavior at the Rutgers Institute for Health, Health Care Policy, and Aging Research, where she was also project manager of a 10-year longitudinal study that examined emotional factors in the health.

Dr. Joel C. Cantor (Sc.D., Johns Hopkins, 1988) is the Director of the Center for State Health Policy within the Institute for Health, Health Care Policy and Aging Research and a Professor of Public Policy. His work has focused on current policy issues in the areas of health care financing, regulation and delivery; access to care by vulnerable populations; health care safety net services; and physician workforce issues.

Dr. Peter Guarnaccia (Ph.D., Medical Anthropology, Connecticut, 1984) is a medical anthropologist in the Department of Human Ecology at Cook College. His current research interests include the influence of culture on psychiatric diagnosis, and the links between anthropology and epidemiology. He has done research in Puerto Rico and New York City on ataques de nervios, a cultural syndrome among Latinos. His work examines the meanings of ataques de nervios in Latino culture and the relationship of ataques to psychiatric illnesses. He is beginning to examine ataques de nervios in Puerto Rican children. Dr. Guarnaccia contributed to the cultural enhancement of DSM-IV. Dr. Guarnaccia recently completed a grant from SAMHSA to train mental health professionals to be more culturally competent. He is also working on issues of the adaptation and adjustment of Latino youth to the United States. He was a co-investigator on the Healthier New Brunswick 2010 Community Survey. Dr. Guarnaccia is Faculty Director of Project L/EARN.
Ellen Idler (Ph.D., Yale, 1985) Professor I and Chair of Sociology, is the co-author of The Hidden Health Care System (1981) and the author of Cohesiveness and Coherence: Religion and the Health of the Elderly (1994). She studies the impact of health perceptions on mortality and disability in middle-aged and elderly populations and has broader interests in the psychosocial resources that determine health status, including a special interest in religion. She was a 1988 recipient of an NIA FIRST Award. She received the FAS Award for Distinguished Contributions to Undergraduate Education in 1998 and the Citizenship and Service Education Faculty Award in 2004. Her 1999 sabbatical was spent at the Department of Social Medicine, University of Copenhagen working with Danish collaborators on studies of self-ratings of health among the very old. She is a collaborator with other Rutgers and UMDNJ investigators on two current NIH-funded projects, one a study of religiousness and spirituality as factors in recovery from open-heart surgery, and the other a recently-funded five-year Mind-Body Center. Other projects include a study of religious involvement among elders in their last year of life, and the development of measures of religiousness for health research. She is a Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America, and sits on the editorial boards of Rutgers University Press, the American Journal of Sociology, and the Journal of Health and Social behavior.

Dr. Howard Leventhal (Ph.D., University of North Carolina, 1956) is Board of Governors Professor of Health Psychology and a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences. He has published more than 250 articles, served on federal committees (e.g., chair of the Behavioral Medicine Study Section), and scientific advisory boards of research centers such as that at OSU, University of Pittsburgh, the Royal Dutch Society Psychology and Health School, and the Cancer Institute of New Jersey and the Fox Chase Cancer Institute. He is on the boards and is a regular reviewer for major journals. His current research is focused on self management processes involved in adaptation to chronic illness. These issues include how patients make self assessments of health, how these assessments affect adaptation, and how perceptions of specific diseases and treatments affect emotional reactions. Dr. Leventhal is the Director for the newly established Center for the Study of Health Beliefs and Behavior, funded by the National Institute of Aging. The primary goal of the center is the development of models describing the processes by which one mind comes to understand another, i.e., how patients, practitioners, and family members come to understand one another’s perception of disease and treatment and how these understandings affect communication, treatment adherence, health outcomes and end of life planning.

Dr. Jane Miller (Ph.D., Pennsylvania, 1989, Demography) Dr. Miller is an associate research professor in the Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy. In collaboration with researchers at Rutgers’ Center for State Health Policy, she is overseeing a study of New Jersey’s State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), which provides coverage for children in low to moderate income families. She also studies socioeconomic differences in child health and how insurance affects access to care.
Biosketches of Potential Faculty Mentors  
Summer 2006 Application

Sarah Rosenfield (Ph.D., Texas, 1977) is a sociologist and associate professor here at Rutgers. Dr. Rosenfield studied both psychiatric epidemiology at Columbia and psychosocial epidemiology at Yale. Her work focuses on gender and racial/ethnic differences in externalizing and internalizing mental health problems. She also studies the effects of stigma on individuals with mental illness. Dr. Rosenfield has mentored several Project L/EARN interns, utilizing a variety of primary data sets involving the severely mentally ill and adolescents with depression.

Usha Samboorthi (Ph.D., University of Madras, India, 1981) is a health services researcher trained in Economics. Dr. Sambamoorthi's research to- date has focused on health care disparities among low- income population with chronic illness and the elderly. In this context, she has studied health care issues of HIV- infected individuals on Medicaid and diagnosis and treatment of depression among the elderly on Medicare. She has studied identification of specific psychiatric disorders and chronic medical conditions using claims data; development of robust measures of pharmaceutical treatment with administrative databases; patterns of care, including access to newer treatments and adherence among individuals with co morbid HIV and severe mental illnesses. She has conducted projects on mental health care including the impact of treatment for depression on adherence to newer antiretroviral medications among HIV- infected individuals on New Jersey Medicaid and out- of- pocket prescription drug costs and mental illness among the elderly using Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey. A developing theme of Dr. Sambamoorthi’s research interest is preventive health care among women and the elderly. She has also investigated pneumococcal vaccination among the elderly using the National Health Interview Survey and influenza vaccination among working adults using the National Health Interview Survey.

Carl Schneider (M.A., University of Connecticut) is a Senior Research Analyst at the Center for State Health Policy providing quantitative data support for numerous Center projects. He specializes in data management and analysis of surveys including the New Jersey Family Health Survey and the Healthier New Brunswick Community Survey. Both surveys provide data on healthcare related topics such as insurance coverage, health status, and access to and utilization of healthcare services. Specific projects Carl is involved with include using Center survey data to examine the oral health among children in the New Brunswick community. He also provides data support for projects involving the New Jersey Family Care program, and is currently managing the HMO Report Card project.