

The fellowship is particularly meaningful to Krista, as it played a role in finding her future career path within prevention science, as she learned there are other ways to help people if you aren't in the medical field. This has led to her finding and accepting the position at the Walla Walla County Health Department as a Behavioral Health Prevention Specialist, where she will be the Regional Youth Marijuana and Tobacco Education Prevention coordinator. Krista saw herself grow in her professional and prevention knowledge throughout the fellowship. This knowledge has been expanded because she was able to go to any conference or training that peaked her interest, such as the National Suicidology conference. During her time as a fellow, Krista worked in crisis response for COVID-19 where she partnered with her county health department to answer calls for the local hotline and by creating multiple public service announcements. She also supported Walla Walla County in the creation of priorities for the 1/10th of 1% funding by analyzing data, and helping host a town hall. In addition to this, Krista helped create the budget and action plan for the Mental Health Promotion and Suicide Prevention grant for Walla Walla County and Columbia County. Her favorite part of the fellowship was the community outreach and learning to grow and be confident in her new environment found in Phase 2 and 3. The constant change of pace helped drive her work and supported her ability to work independently both professionally and personally. Krista has gained a new level of confidence from the fellowship and is excited to carry that with her moving forward!