

Melody Buckholtz



In June of 2023, I began a six-week internship at the Pareto Clinic (Population Health Management Practice) through the AnnieRuth Foundation's summer internship program. As a Pareto Scholar, I shadowed Dr. Kenyatta Lee, assisted in making appointments, and participated in calling and scheduling patients to come in for their appointment.

The Pareto Clinic caters to the underserved community. They give quality care no matter what the difference. The staff even go to great lengths to help with applying for or reapplying for insurance.

During the first days as Pareto Scholar's, we signed off on different documents for HIPPA, a patient protection agreement. We also watched videos that taught us how to navigate Athena, the portal for Pareto patients. This allowed us to legally get into the more hands-on experience. Every Monday through Thursday, I showed up in either royal blue or pewter colored scrubs with a notepad and pens in reach. The first week we were given a priority of an hour of patient shadowing a day. I shadowed and assisted a Nurse Practitioner, Ms. King, who saw mostly Medicaid patients. My favorite part was helping her with the Pap Smears. After she retrieves the sample, my job would be to scrape the sample into a solution to send off for testing for cervical cancer screening.

All of the Pareto Scholars were given a project to improve some part of the clinic. I was given the topic of breast and cervical cancer screening. My method for getting patients to have their Pap Smears done was to consistently call until they answered and scheduled their appointment. From this, I learned that most people aren't in tune with their body because their priorities don't allow them too. The project made me brainstorm many ways I can start helping communities that don't know about the sicknesses in their body.

Participating in the AnnieRuth Foundation's summer internship program has shown me that medicine is the route I want to take. At Pareto Clinic, disparities in this underserved community were brought to my attention and gave me the purpose of desiring to assist with making the healthcare system accessible and fair for all.