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Summer 2020

## Aweke Tadesse - EMBARC

Aweke Tadesse

*University of Northern Iowa*

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# Aweke Tadesse - EMBARC

**Robert and Yvonne Koob Fund for Student Community Engagement**

**Instructions: Please work with your internship supervisor to fill out this form. Once completed, return to Kristina Kofoot** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** Aweke Tadesse      **Agency:** EMBARC

**Intern's Phone Number and E-mail Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Organization Contact Person and Phone:** Sarah Kraft \_\_\_\_\_

**Academic Advisor and Phone:** Jennifer Becker      **Phone#** \_\_\_\_\_

**Future Plans for student:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**What did you accomplish during your internship?**

My accomplishment can be summarized in three different activity areas. First, involving with COVID-19 patents as a front line resource mobilizer team. I had an opportunity to work with RISE staff at Sioux City and access connections with a patient from the Ethiopian immigrant community who don't speak English. My role was to provide information as to how the patent can get health, housing, and food assistance. I have contacted different EMBARC partner agencies and service providers and provided information to the client. Second, I have developed a cultural presentation about Ethiopian and Ethiopian immigrants living in the US and submitted

to the agency. Third, working with the UNI Violence Prevention Center and analyzing primary and secondary data (survey) on bullying and gender-based violence in the school context. I have analyzed four secondary data (research articles) and primary qualitative data. The thematic analysis was presented to the program advisors/leaders and I also put the information together in logical-model format. Under six different Themes, logical teaching templates or models were created in PowerPoint and word format and shared with the program advisors to strengthen the Mentor Violence Prevention (MVP) training manual.

### **How did the internship benefit the student?**

The internship involvement and activities helped me to connect with different service provider agencies who are committed to assisting COVID-19 patients. Through my involvement both with COVID-19 patients and EMBARC partners helped me to enrich my social work profession skills such as assessing a problem, communication, empathy, reflective listening, respecting diversity, and human dignity. I have also learned the significance of a supportive and networking system and working as a team to address a pandemic like COVID-19. I have also learned some of the cultural issues that Ethiopian immigrants are facing here in the US, especially those pregnant women who are diagnosed and treated by male physicians as they are free to talk about everything with a male doctor. Reviewing data and reaching articles on gender-based violence and bullying helped me to develop my research analysis skill and how to incorporate or use the findings to strengthen the existing intervention strategies and activities. For example, research collected from high school and college students showed that what UNI Violence Prevention Center is doing to develop empowered mentor-leaders is changing the understanding of many regarding the effect and prevention strategies against bullying and gender-based violence. As a result student mentors are taking initiatives to stop the wrong behavior and showed a commitment to promote the bystander approach as well as positively contribute to the wellbeing improvement of their school/family/classmate/roommate/office and the social environment.

### **How did the internship benefit the agency?**

I think EMBARC benefited from my role and accomplishments in different ways. Through the role I had with the Ethiopian community in Sioux city with COVID-19 patients I believe that the agency service coverage expanded and the relationship with the partners also strengthened as I was trying to coordinate different support systems with partners and individuals. Strengthening a

support system and networking with potential and committed partners are key for promoting the practice and research-informed services as well as to maintain efficiency and effectiveness of service and care at micro, mezzo, and macro level. The cultural presentation about “Ethiopian” can also help the community workers to understand the diversity issue, respect human dignity/worth, interact effectively, and deliver quality service. More significantly the agency’s Victim Service program can benefit from the research analysis shared on bullying and gender-based violence that can be used to enrich the staff and community awareness and accordingly make strategic changes towards the intervention approach and processes.

### **How does the internship benefit the community?**

As a non-profit agency, what EMBARC is doing has a direct benefit for the Burmese, Congolese, Somalians, Ertreasa, Ethiopians, and other immigrants in Waterloo and Demious areas and beyond. Improving the social, education, emotional, mental, and physiological well being of the immigrant indirectly benefits the community around in many vivid ways. For instance supporting the victim service intervention in different ways such as workforce development, mobilizing community participation, awareness creations, and making research-informed interventions changes can help the community staff and the community positively respond and corporate to fight against domestic violence, and different forms of abuses. These interventions also impact to change bad behaviors individuals, community perceptions, and practices that negatively affect the community safety and wellness. Criminal and addictive behaviors and practices can likely be reduced through the Victim Service program and other interventions that the agency is undertaking with the community.

**(Student to complete) One quote that describes the experience gained from completing this internship (to be used for promotional materials; please specify the author of the quote)?**

Strengthening a support system and networking with potential and committed partners are key for promoting the practice and research-informed services as well as to maintain efficiency and effectiveness of service and care at micro, mezzo and macro-level

**(Intern supervisor to complete) One quote that describes the impact the intern had on the community (to be used for promotional materials; please specify author of quote)?**

“Aweke did an excellent job as an intern with EMBARC. He is always eager to learn and to share his knowledge and experiences. In particular, he has created a presentation about the culture of Ethiopia to present to the team. Since EMBARC is new to working with the Ethiopian community, Aweke’s personal insights and cultural information have been extremely valuable to help EMBARC learn how to best serve them in a culturally appropriate way.” Sarah Kraft, MSW Family Focus Program Specialist and Aweke’s supervisor.

**Please provide:**

- **A reproducible photo of the intern in action at their internship for media purposes**  
(I do have one as most of EMBARC’s work has been done remotely due to COVID-19)
- **If applicable, a copy of materials created by the intern including but not limited to: books, program materials, videos, promotional materials etc.**