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Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhoods

Madeline Panus

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Internship with Case Western Reserve University Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhoods

By: **Madeline Panus**

Introduction:

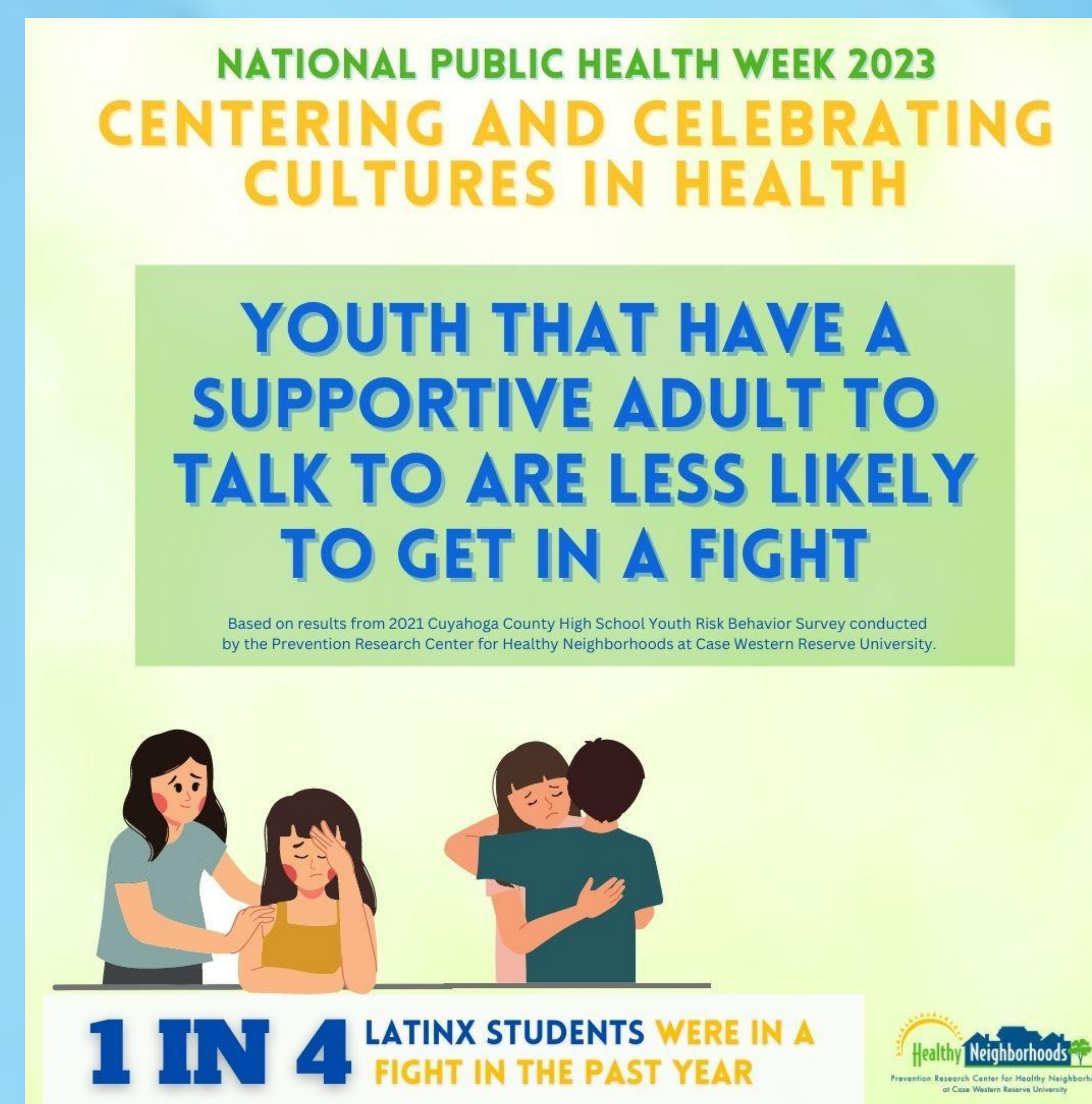
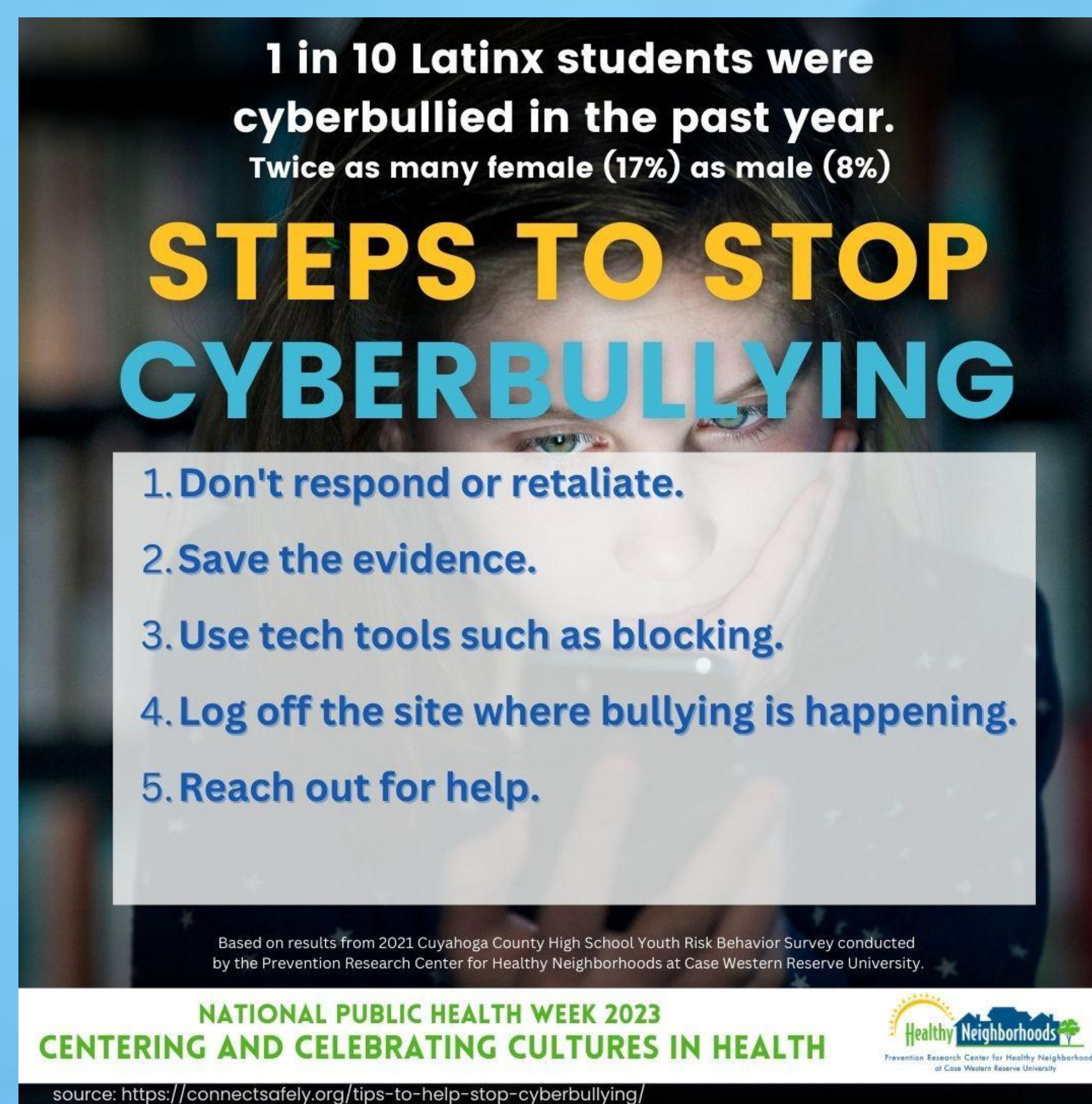
- The Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhoods (PRCHN) at Case Western Reserve University aims to improve health in underserved communities
- PRCHN recognizes the experiences of those who face constant health disparities
- The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) was developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and tracks adolescent risk behavior, morbidity, and mortality

Internship Learning Goals:

- Learn how to administer the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) in Cuyahoga County middle schools
- Prepare survey data for analysis and provide support documentation for the item rationale
- Conduct analysis of 2021 High School YRBS data and create social media deliverables for National Public Health Week (April 3-9, 2023) and National Stress Awareness Month (April 2023)

Responsibilities:

- Travel to middle schools across Cleveland to administer YRBS
- Manually input surveys
- Verify student enrollment numbers so data can be weighed
- Create crosswalks and item rationale to compare past and current surveys
- Create deliverables to share important public health trends and statistics on social media



The figures above show the social media deliverables that were posted on PRCHN website and social media accounts.

My Experience:

- First time being a part of data collection process
- Saw the public health surveillance process come full circle, starting with data collection all the way to dissemination
- Learned how to effectively analyze data to find trends and important patterns
- Practiced and experimented with creating social media deliverables that ended up published to the front page of the PRCHN website
- Spoke with professionals across the Public Health sector and learned about their education and current position

Takeaways:

- Applied what I had learned in the classroom in terms of public health and data science to real situations and data
- Discovered a passion for creating graphics for social media dissemination
- Openness to learning new skills and programs is essential for success
- Collaboration and giving feedback on projects are common practice and can help ensure that the final product has all necessary components
- Business relationships establish good communication and successful teamwork on projects