

Ben Van Maren

Bachelor of Science graduate with a degree in Molecular and Cellular Biology (Honors) and a Public Health minor, with training in infectious disease programs and management. Self-starter and leader with excellent skills in leading projects, diligence, and building novel ideas. Passionate for helping others; avid meditator.

EDUCATION

8/2013 – 5/2017

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE, MOLECULAR AND CELLULAR BIOLOGY

- + Minor: Public Health
- + 3.837 GPA, Honors College

7/2018 – present

CERTIFIED FULL-STACK DEVELOPER

cert. date: 1/24/2019

- + Highly proficient in JavaScript (and libraries), HTML5, CSS3, databases, Git

EXPERIENCE – PUBLIC HEALTH

7/2017 - present

HIV EARLY INTERVENTION SPECIALIST / TESTER – SW Cntr. for HIV/AIDS

- + Diagnosing individuals with HIV and providing ongoing peer support, counseling, and services to people living with HIV, starting with a holistic assessment
- + Facilitating one-on-one STI testing sessions which include individualized peer education, risk reduction counseling, and linkage to local services
- + Organizing and facilitating impactful support groups, local events, and more

1/2014 – 7/2017

VOLUNTEER – Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation

- + Senior volunteer for *Syringe Access Program*; managed 3,000+ clients and assisted them with health promotion, harm reduction, and STI knowledge
- + Helped develop, facilitate, and lead events and programs
- + Provided one-on-one peer support to individuals who were at high risk of HIV and Hepatitis (A, B, C) infection and/or engaged in high risk behaviors

5/2015 – 5/2018

GLOBAL VOLUNTEER

dates: 3/2017 (1 week)

- + Nicaragua: empowered communities and prevented diseases by improving public health infrastructure and education

3/2018 (1 week)

- + Facilitated youth learning and created lesson plans for in-school and afterschool programs in rural *India*, for individuals with intellectual disabilities

dates: 5/2015 (1 month)

6/2016 – 5/2017

INTERN AND THESIS WRITING – Pima County Health Department

- + Developed and conducted innovative campaigns and services for Pima County residents in order to promote syphilis awareness and reduce disease burden
- + Provided comprehensive counseling in-person and electronically to individuals on sexual health topics like STDs and PrEP, and referred to local services per need
- + Published work as Honors Thesis project (*Advisor: Robin Harris, PhD*)

EXPERIENCE – RESEARCH

1/2014 – 8/2015

RESEARCH ASSISTANT – *Felicia Goodrum, Ph.D.*, Immunobiology

- + Researched mechanisms of viral latency with concentration on herpesviridae

5/2013 – 1/2014

RESEARCH ASSISTANT – *Parker Antin, Ph.D.*, Cellular and Molecular Medicine

- + Studied cardiac and developmental health with chick embryo model

2013 – 2015

PRESENTER – Antin and Goodrum lab projects

- + Presented at various international, national, and local conferences (over 15 total)

AWARDS

Fall 2013 – Spring 2017

DEAN'S LIST or greater, every semester

May 2016

PHI BETA KAPPA lifetime membership

March 2016

OUTSTANDING PREVENTION DEPARTMENT VOLUNTEER

Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation

SKILLS

Second nature

COMPUTERS AND OTHER TECHNOLOGY

- + Mac and Windows OS (equal), Microsoft Office Suite, Adobe Photoshop, social networking websites and apps, keen troubleshooter

Regional expertise

NATIVE OF TUCSON, ARIZONA