Ryan Anderson, a 1st year MHA student on the Statesboro Campus, has accepted an offer to complete a summer internship with the Duke University Health System in Durham, North Carolina, sponsored by the Institute for Diversity and Health Equity as part of its Summer Enrichment Program.

The Institute’s Summer Enrichment Program (SEP) places diverse, graduate students pursuing advanced degrees in health care administration or a related field in 10-week, paid internships within health care organizations. Experienced administrators serve as preceptors and mentors, providing support and career advice as well as those critical early-career connections.

According to a 2015 Institute for Diversity and Health Equity Benchmark Study, the patient populations in U.S. hospitals and health systems are becoming more diverse, while diversity in those organizations’ senior leadership ranks has experienced a decline – evidence for the urgent need of effective initiatives to increase representation and inclusion of diverse leaders in healthcare management.

Since 1994, the Institute has placed more than 1,500 individuals in Summer Enrichment Program internships at hospitals, health systems and other health care organizations. Many former SEP participants now hold senior management and board positions at organizations across the country. In addition to gaining broad exposure to the host site’s staff, stakeholders and challenges, SEP interns also complete an independently-designed special project, intended to benefit the hospital after the internship concludes.