During the 2015 Spring Quarter, I participated in the Pathways Internship Program at the Census Bureau within the Center for Economic Studies. The program provided me a ‘hands-on’ opportunity to acquire an understanding of what underlies the production of statistics from data obtained with Census Bureau annual surveys.

My project was to examine temporal trends in employer contributions to employee health insurance. Both of my co-mentors are economists in the Center for Economic Studies: Alice Zawacki (Ph.D.) is a health economist, and Henry Hyatt (Ph.D.) is a labor economist. Alice and Henry were excellent mentors who helped me to understand the overall importance of the project. Furthermore, they enabled me to navigate complex data sets that track many employer behaviors, such as our focus: how much of a contribution employers make towards the health insurance of their employees.

The project allowed me to think about a very important question for America today: how accessible is health care for working-class Americans? I enjoyed using the data analysis skills I acquired at Hopkins to explore an issue that critically effects many people.

Please don’t hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions regarding my experience in the Pathways Program. I strongly recommend it to all interested students.

Sincerely,

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