The Department of Health Sciences is partnering with ThinkImpact in Panama Spring 2016 to provide a unique opportunity for students to apply their knowledge of global health to the challenges facing a small, rural Panamanian community. Guided by a unique curriculum and process, ThinkImpact will bring together the students in this program and the local community members to spark ideas and create innovative solutions for local health problems and concerns through qualitative research and exploration. Through direct partnership with community members, student interns will build a team with locals and work together to seek out opportunities within the community. The team will identify health challenges, formulate ideas on how to improve quality of life, and prototype and test these ideas in the field. By emphasizing creativity and innovation within an environment of empathy, cross-cultural understanding and in-depth exploration of local context, the program will facilitate hard and soft skill development. Authentic cultural immersion will help students understand local context and provides a rich and meaningful experience for them, as they often form deep bonds with their homestay families and community partners. The innovations that are developed through this process are designed to be managed and sustained locally by community members. The program begins with orientation and tours in Panama City and ends with an excursion to the San Blas Islands. Students will also visit the LDS temple in Panama City.

DATES
30 April–11 June 2016

HOUSING
Housing and meals will be provided during the 6 week program. All students will stay with a homestay family while living in the village. We believe that total immersion is vital to fully understand the culture of a host community. Students help their host families with cooking and cleaning. Meals are prepared by the homestay family, and special health precautions are taken to ensure all water and food items are thoroughly decontaminated. Most students will share accommodations with another student. Homestays are carefully vetted and chosen by ThinkImpact in-country coordinators to ensure the best experience possible for students. Though the idea of a homestay may be intimidating at first, it's often the number one experience ThinkImpact alumni rave about by the end of the program. Also included is accommodation and meals in Panama City for initial training and orientation prior to traveling the local community where students will stay for the duration of the program.
COURSES
Students are required to be enrolled for six credits during their spring term internship. Students may select from the following courses: Health Internship (HLTH 496R), International Development Internship (IAS 399), Applied International Health, (HLTH 481), Mentored Research (HLTH 491R), Directed Public Health Readings (HLTH 492), Health Problems Workshop: Public Health in Latin America (HLTH 403R). Graduate fieldwork and/or directed study credit is available for MPH students.

COST
$5,200–5,700
Includes: LDS undergraduate full-time tuition, housing, meals, international health insurance, airport transportation, transportation from Panama City to the community and back, drinking water while in the community. An excursion to the San Blas Islands and a Panama City tour are included in the program cost. Does not include: Airfare, passport and visa expenses, vaccinations, or personal expenses.

PREPARATION
This internship is open to all majors with preference given to public health students and Spanish language proficiency. Although Spanish language proficiency is not required, students with no or little Spanish language experience are encouraged to take some basic language study in order to enhance their experience in this internship. If seeking International Development Minor credit, before departing for Panama, students are required to take IAS 220 Introduction to Development Studies (3 credit hours). Students are required to participate in the prep course: IAS 369R 1 cr. held Winter Semester, one evening a week. Passports must be valid for at least six months beyond the end of the program. Visitors to Panama do not need a visa if the stay is less than 180 days.

FUNDING SOURCES
Regular BYU tuition scholarships, Pell Grants, and Federal Insured Student Loans may be applied to international programs. Academic departments and colleges may assist with scholarships and grants. Private grants and scholarships outside of BYU may also assist (see kennedy.byu.edu/scholarships).

APPLICATION PROCESS
Applications may be accepted through 1 February 2016 on a space available basis. Complete the online application at kennedy.byu.edu/apply. The application requires a $35 fee. Once accepted by BYU, students then will complete the ThinkImpact application process and receive acceptance. Program participation requires acceptance from ThinkImpact.

Priority Deadline: 1 December 2015.

FACULTY
Randy M. Page, Director of the Global Health Internship Program and Professor of Health Science, is the program director.

SCHEDULE AND TIME COMMITMENT
Students will be in Panama for six weeks but will be required to complete academic assignments prior to this time and upon returning home from the program.

INTERESTED STUDENTS SHOULD CONTACT
International Study Programs or Dr. Randy M Page
101 HRCB 2030 Life Science Building
kennedy.byu.edu/isp randy_page@byu.edu

PROGRAM ADJUSTMENTS
ISP reserves the right to cancel this program, revise its offerings, or make any adjustments to the preliminary cost estimates due to conditions beyond its control.