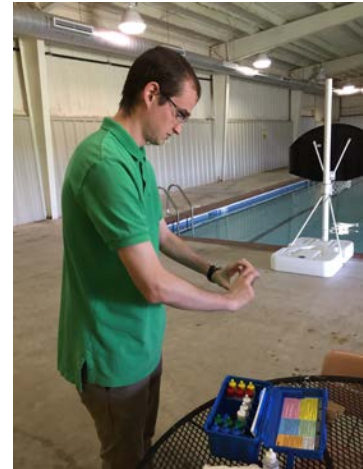


**ENS Justin Bunn**  
**JRCOSTEP Summer 2017**  
**East Carolina University**  
**Pawnee Service Unit**  
**Pawnee, Oklahoma**

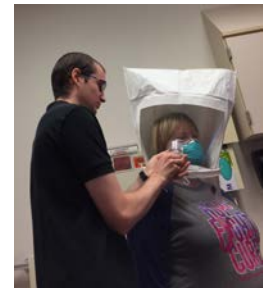
I am currently a graduate student at East Carolina University pursuing a Master of Science in Environmental Health. I learned about the JRCOSTEP from my advisor as a way to apply the concepts taught at the University, expand my knowledge of environmental health practices, and build relationships with the people we serve. The JRCOSTEP has given me the opportunity to experience all of these things.



During my time as a JRCOSTEP I was based at the Pawnee Service Unit, Pawnee, OK. The Pawnee Service Unit covers a large area ranging from north-central to north-eastern Oklahoma and provides services to 10 tribes. The services that the Division of Environmental Health Services, Indian Health Service (IHS), provides to the tribes include consulting on food safety, wastewater management, institutional safety, and injury prevention. Each day brought new opportunities to experience all the unique things that Oklahoma and the IHS have to offer.

Primarily, my day-to-day activities involved assisting and independently performing surveys of food service operations, childcare centers, swimming pools and community centers. Before my time with the IHS, I had knowledge of the 2013 FDA Food Code and the NFPA 101 Life Safety Code from my previous education, but performing surveys allowed me to apply this knowledge. Over time I became able to quickly spot potential health and safety hazards.

Beyond performing surveys of tribal organizations, I volunteered at three car seat events sponsored by the IHS and Safe Kids. During these events, the IHS and Safe Kids taught parents how to safely install a car seat in their specific vehicle. If the parents didn't have a car seat, one was either provided to the parent for free or at a deeply discounted rate. I also performed respirator fit tests for medical staff that worked at the Pawnee Health Clinic using qualitative testing methods.



Throughout the summer, I was able to meet with other JRCOSTEPs stationed in the Lawton and Shawnee Service Units. By meeting with them, I was able to learn about institutions that are not located within my service area, such as a waterpark in Lawton, OK and a Juvenile Detention Center in Stroud, OK. This also allowed us to work together on projects throughout the summer. Alongside my fellow JRCOSTEPs we created and conducted training on animal bite and sting prevention to prevent exposure to local youth who were from Head Starts and childcare centers. Another collaborative project with my fellow JRCOSTEPs, we created a crowd manager's training that can be used by the IHS staff to educate tribal officials on emergency management of large groups such as concerts, conventions, or powwows.

I would like to thank my preceptor, James Isaacs, and all those at the Pawnee Service Unit for being so welcoming to me. My JRCOSTEP experience was unforgettable. I learned so much more than I thought I would about environmental health and the Commissioned Corps. This experience has confirmed that I want to pursue a career with the IHS and the Commissioned Corps upon graduation.

