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My experience as a student fellow with the CGVRC demonstrated that there is a vast and interdisciplinary network of individuals in Chicago who are not only interested in studying violence in our city, but are committed to be part of potent solutions. On our first day, we each had the opportunity to share what brought us to the fellowship. The stories were diverse, but shared commonalities. Particularly salient were recognitions that the impact of gun violence in this city ran deeply, and that, through collaboration, we could be agents of change.

Underlying this fellowship was the implicit understanding that we were fortunate to have platforms. As students of universities, and as professionals in research and public health, the CGVRC fellowship was a constant reminder that these positions of privilege can be leveraged in such a way to best support communities.

Our faculty-fellow research project centered on the work of violence interruption in Chicago during COVID-19. This project was a perfect exemplar of the CGVRC, bringing together a police officer and public health professional, a social worker, a community outreach worker, and a community psychologist. Through our process, we were able to develop a deep appreciation for the stress and challenges of being a violence interrupter during a time of pandemic and civil unrest in the City, while *still* managing to be a facilitator of violence prevention in a meaningful and measurable way.

During this fellowship, we had the opportunity to learn about recent work being done in Chicago which centers on the role of an individual's social network on violence. Similarly, in our work with violence interruption, we spatially examined gun crimes from a neighborhood perspective. With both methodologies, there is a fundamental recognition and appreciation a researcher must have for dependence – that is, traits and behaviors of individuals depend on other individuals, just as they do on a larger scale from neighborhood to neighborhood. The citizens and the neighborhoods of Chicago are fundamentally connected, and in my view, the CGVRC was a perfect microcosm for this collectivist ethos.