



# West Chester University



## MPH Connections



Spring 2021

Editor: Amanda Colón

Co-editors: Dr. Gopal Sankaran and Dr. Stacie Metz

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# Dr. Stacie Metz

Dear WCU MPH Community,

As I conclude my first full year as MPH Program Director and Graduate Coordinator, I want to let each of you know how your professional stories of resilience, growth, and collaboration deeply resonate with us. We are delighted to share more of your accomplishments as you will see in this issue.

It has been a challenging year for all of us as well the communities we live and work in due to the intersecting public health crises of COVID-19 and systemic racial injustice. Together we will continue to advocate for health and wellness for ALL and work towards health equity.

Aligned with our profession's call to advocate, I hope you will consider participating in our upcoming Alumni Survey that you will receive in June. Please complete the survey when it is made available. Your voice is much needed and will have impact in several areas:

1. Help prospective and current students *envision* what types of jobs and agencies they may aspire to;
2. *Inspire* current students with your stories of how you are using MPH skills in practice. (Remember to have YOUR professional stories and *accomplishments showcased* in future MPH program communications!);
3. *Plan* next year's programming for our *Virtual MPH Professional Development Series* for current students, alum, and community partners;
4. Recommend critical technology and other skills to be added into the MPH curriculum to *promote a stronger future workforce*
5. *Share* your professional expertise by joining us as a guest speaker, panelist, or as an MPH Applied Learning Experience Site Supervisor.

Please feel free to connect with me with your ideas, suggestions, and ways by which you could help our program grow and flourish, I look forward to hearing from you soon. Thank you!

Stay safe and well,

*Stacie*

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# JOIN US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



For campus events & student/program highlights  
follow us on Facebook

<http://facebook.com/WCUmph>

Interested in MPH Student Advisory Board  
Announcements? Follow us on Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/wcumphsab/>

For all career & professional development  
opportunities follow us on LinkedIn

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/6531281/>

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# WCU Celebrates Black History Month



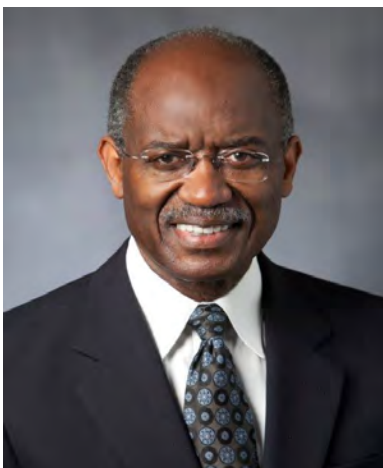
## Deborah Prothrow-Stith, MD

Deborah Prothrow-Stith was the first and youngest woman Commissioner of Public Health for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in 1987. She pioneered the view that interpersonal violence should be treated as a public health issue. Prothrow-Stith also has developed, The Violence Prevention Curriculum for Adolescents, used by school in every state.



## Maxine Hayes, MD, MPH, FAAP

2017 Martha May Eliot Award recipient from the American Public Health Association, Maxine Hayes, is a nationally-recognized maternal and child health expert. Her roles have included advising the governor, the secretary of health, the medical communities, and local health departments about matters relevant to the health of the public.



## Sherman A. James, PhD

Sherman James is an epidemiologist and health researcher widely known for his concept, “John Henryism”. This concept entails a strategy to coping with prolonged stress and attributes the premature deaths of African Americans to prolonged exposure to the stresses of discrimination and racism.

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# Service Learning Project Experience

## Brendan Sherwood

MPH(c), Community Health



For my service-learning project, I had the goal of creating several informational videos. One was to present the findings of the Montgomery County needs assessment regarding the main health issues regarding drugs and alcohol among youth in Montgomery County. The other was to promote the new program called the SAP or Student Assistance Program, and what it does to assist youth students suffering from behavioral or substance problems, as well as how to enroll and get more information. I created these videos on a video making software and they turned out very professional. I was able to apply my skills of interpreting important health information and promote public health issues in the community through a needs assessment. I also learned how to use video making software to

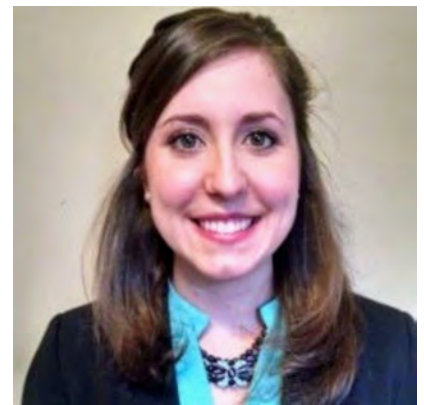
better reach a demographic on social media sites. The mentorship aspect with Katie Kucz was extremely beneficial. I was able to video chat with Katie a few times. Speaking face to face really helped me get a better idea of what was expected of me. In addition, she was able to give me feedback on the first cut of the videos and explain if anything needed to be focused on or touched on more. She was a great mentor to help me succeed on this project. The biggest takeaway from this service-learning project was how I was given an objective with lots of room for creativity. I took that opportunity and created something that was useful for many people in different areas.

## Katie Kucz, MPH

Prevention Coordinator  
Office of Drug & Alcohol

Montgomery County Department of Health & Human Services

I loved the opportunity to serve as a mentor for the service-learning project! I enjoy working with college students and only on occasion get to do so because my job is mostly behind the scenes to make the puzzle pieces fit together which is not the best scenario when recruiting interns! Being a mentor is about sharing lessons I've learned on the job to help students make informed decisions about their future and that is a rewarding experience. Working with Brendan on the service-learning project was awesome! I had a rough idea for a project to fill a void within my program area, I explained my thoughts to Brendan, and with little guidance he produced these excellent videos which are publically available on our website!



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# Student & Alumni Spotlight

## Business Owners in Public Health



### **Bonnie McIntosh**

MBA, MPH, CHES®

Principal Consultant

ACE Community Health

The mission of ACE Community Health is to promote wellness to people in communities and empower them to make healthy lifestyle choices. Some of the core activities include engaging with stakeholders, designing, implementing, and evaluating health programs, and producing health promotion products.

I am an innovative visionary with a passion for promoting health and wellness. I enjoy teamwork, leadership, and networking. I am an organized self-starter who is an adaptive, open-minded, competitive, and confident individual, who continuously practices being present in the moment. The skills in the MPH program that helped me in conceptualizing and turning my idea into actuality were technical, analytical skills, ethics, empathy, effective written/verbal communication, and critical thinking. Other skills that I attribute to my work are problem solving, teamwork, leadership, networking, time management, organization and being adaptive.

My advice for students or alum who have a business idea in mind but do not know how to start is to follow your passion. Get a mentor and do your research to learn about your business tax obligations. Create a comprehensive business plan and put that plan to work. Continuously use those MPH skills, network, and never stop learning.

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## Kelly L. Eckhart, MPH

Owner, Partner, Laboratory Director, Analytical  
Microscopist  
Eckhart Environmental Services, LLC

Eckhart Environmental Services was created to provide budget-friendly, high quality environmental analytical testing and consulting services for commercial, industrial and residential clients. We are a National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP)-accredited laboratory that specializes in asbestos analyses of bulk building materials for the identification of asbestos. We also specialize in mold analytical testing and inspections of residential and commercial properties. Eckhart Environmental Services also offers Respirator Fit Testing and NIOSH 582 Equivalency Course Training.



Eckhart Environmental Services was born in 2016, and launched in January 2020. Growing up, I dreamt of becoming an entrepreneur, to be able to give back to the community and to help others pursue their dreams. Also important in the creation of Eckhart Environmental Services was a healthy work culture where people are respected and integrity matters. In January 2020, my former colleague and I launched the business. Together, we have approximately half a century of analytical experience. We had worked together for almost 14 years prior to launching the company and knew that we work very well together.

The MPH Program at WCU helped me turn my dreams of entrepreneurship into a reality by enhancing my years of Environmental Health industry work experience with Industrial Hygiene core foundational coursework. Earning my MPH degree gave me the confidence to pursue something of which I knew would involve hard work, patience and discipline. The foundation of the MPH Program gives you many options upon graduation and is great for students looking to become respected Environmental Health Professionals.

My Advice: Allow that spark inside of you to culminate and illuminate your path forward. Success is born from our past mistakes-we learn how to be better, we adapt. Take calculated risks by planning and mapping your ideas, via a business plan. SCORE is a great organization to get business planning tips and ideas at little to no cost.

Launching a business is exhilarating. There are no words that can describe the joy of bringing an idea to life, nurturing it, seeing it grow and taking shape. I would like to thank my mentors and past colleagues, family, friends and experiences that have helped to bring this idea to life.





**Rashad Devoe, MPH**  
Head Coach, Men's Lacrosse Program  
Amherst College, Massachusetts

MPH Alumni Rashad Devoe, added a new title to his credentials, coach. He has been named head coach of Amherst College men's lacrosse program. In a statement in the Daily Hampshire Gazette, Rashad responded to the position, "I am thoroughly excited to be able to coach and mentor the young men in this program and help them reach their goals off the field, as well as on the field. This program, with its supportive alumni and dedicated and talented players, has built a national lacrosse program that strives to win championships. We will continue to strive for excellence with tenacity, character, and integrity."

In 2017, Devoe was named the Midwest Lacrosse Conference Coach of the year. Along with coaching, Rashad serves on the board of the Jack Sandler Leadership foundation and Blaxerblog Coaches Association. He devotes time to volunteer at a nonprofit that supports and raises awareness for childhood cancer called Brady's Bunch Lacrosse and the Owl's Lacrosse program.

Read the full article here:

<https://www.gazettenet.com/Amherst-College-names-Rashad-Devoe-men-s-lacrosse-coach-34483108>

**Breana E. Green, MPH**

Acting Logistics Section Chief, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Region III, U.S. Department of Homeland Security

All FEMA employees are expected to support the Agency in times of disaster. This means that all employees wear a second hat apart from their daily work and will be asked to support disaster recovery operations within the Region. For the past two months I have been deployed to support COVID-19 operations at various Community Vaccination Sites throughout Philadelphia, Virginia and Maryland working within our Logistics cadre — (current Acting Logistics Section Chief). To say this work has been rewarding is an understatement. I've witnessed the outpouring of emotion from everyday citizens expressing their appreciation for our service and leadership. Incredibly proud to be a part of the solution to end this pandemic! [#FEMAPROUD](#)



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# *2021 Delta Omega Inductees*

The Beta Xi Chapter of the Delta Omega Honorary Society in Public Health at WCU is pleased to announce this year's MPH student inductees. Each year, Delta Omega elects new student members based on high academic standards and outstanding performance in scholarship, research, and community service. Election of membership in Delta Omega is intended to not only recognize merit, but also to encourage and further excellence in and devotion to public health work.

Founded in 1924, Delta Omega is a national honor society existing to encourage research and scholarship among graduate students of public health and to recognize attainment and achievement in the field of public health. With over 50 active chapters across the country, Delta Omega and its members are dedicated to ensuring the quality of the field of public health and to the protection and advancement of the health of all people.

This year's Delta Omega MPH student inductees are:

**Shannon Fyalkowski - Community Health**

**Gianna Marciante - Health Care Management**

**Victoria Pauline - Community Health**

**Christina Shiller - Community Health**

**Doris Swarn - Health Care Management**

For more information about Delta Omega, please visit the National Chapter's website at [www.deltaomega.org](http://www.deltaomega.org).

***Congratulations to all our MPH student inductees!***

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## ***Congratulations to the Sturzebecker Scholarship Recipients!***

The Russell L. Sturzebecker Scholarship program is intended for high achieving undergraduate and graduate students seeking a degree in one of the academic programs within the College of Health Sciences of West Chester University.

This year's award winners are:

**Olivia Christman (undergraduate- PH)**

**Madison Scalleat, MPH(c)**



“I am a proud WCU Alum and graduate student with a passion for helping people. Careerwise, I am interested in maternal and reproductive health and hope to assist in creating easier access and reducing barriers of receiving care. I am so honored and grateful to receive this scholarship award, it makes all the hard work worth it!”

...Madison



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## *Congratulations to our May 2021 Graduate Student Association Award Recipient!*

This is the second year in which graduate coordinators partnered with the Graduate Student Association to acknowledge excellence of our graduate students. Program faculty nominate and choose one student to acknowledge in one of three categories of Excellence: In the Field, In Scholarship and Creative Activity, and In Leadership, Service, and/or Advocacy. Only one graduating student in May 2021 could be acknowledged.

We are honored to present the May 2021 GSA Award of Excellence in the Field to:



**Shannon Fyalkowski**

*Shannon is a graduate MPH intern at the AstraZeneca HealthCare Foundation. Due to her outstanding performance, she was hired three weeks into her internship as a Program Associate, and since then, promoted to Operations and Communications Associate in which she manages the day-to-day administration of the Foundation, the Disaster Relief Fund, and internal/external communications. We commend Shannon on her accomplishments in the field. She is a thoughtful authentic leader who encourages collaboration, focuses on quality improvement, amplifies underrepresented voices, and who leads by example. There is no doubt she will be a change agent in the public health profession and a brilliant mentor to new cohorts of students for years to come.*

2020-2021  
**WCU MPH Program**  
**Virtual Professional Development Series**  
**Presents:**



Based directly from student and alumni feedback, Dr. Metz developed the first annual MPH Student Virtual Professional Development Series. The goals of the series are to promote intellectual inquiry, professional growth, and expand networking opportunities. Panelists and guests included MPH faculty/staff, campus partners, current students, MPH alumni, and an array of community partners. We are tremendously grateful for their expertise and time.

**Applied Learning Experience  
Practicum Overview: How Career  
Exploration Early in the MPH  
Program May Assist with ALE Site  
Selection**

10/07/20

**Guests**



Casey Fenoglio, MPH (CH '18), CHES®, Community Wellness Program Manager, Pottstown Hospital - Tower Health

Ashley Cifarelli (HCM '19) – Administrative Assistant of Radiation Oncology at Penn Medicine, University of Pennsylvania Health System

Justice Lambon (EH '18) – Industrial Hygienist at OSHA and doctoral student at SUNY in Brooklyn, NY

Amrit Baral (CH '20) – Disease Investigator, Chester County Health Department and in process of interviewing for jobs & applying for doctoral epidemiology programs



## Civic Engagement: Social Work & Public Health Perspectives: A Panel Discussion

10/15/20

**Hosted by:** Dr. Stacie Metz and Dr. Tina Chiarelli-Helminiak (WCU Graduate Social Work)

### **Guests**

Michelle Legaspi Sanchez, MPH, MSW, Executive Director of Chester County Fund for Women and Girls

Emanuel Wilkinson, Community Advocate, Temple University B.S. Political Science Student, First-Ever Student Elected to Pottstown School District Board at 18 years of age

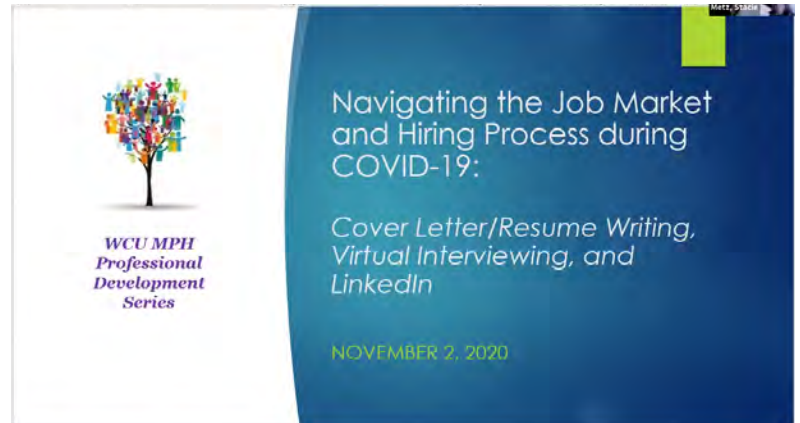
Liliana Ventura, MA, West Chester University MSW Student, Graduate Assistant at the Dowdy Multicultural Center

## Navigating the Job Market and Hiring Process during COVID-19

11/02/20

### **Guests**

Amber Pleasants, MA, CCC, Assistant Director & Academic Liaison to the College of Health Sciences, Twardowski Career Development Center



Katie Kucz, MPH, Prevention Coordinator at Montgomery County Office of Drug and Alcohol

Kim Slouf, MPH, Content Publisher, Research IS Web Services, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) Research Institute (CHOP Program Coordinator & Outreach Coordinator in past)

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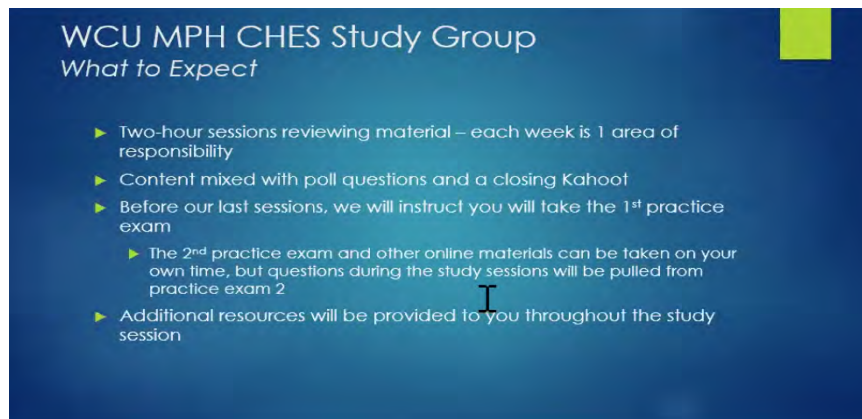
## Spring 2021 WCU MPH CHES® Study Group

Co-Hosted by Chelsey Price, MPH, MCHES® and Stacie Metz, PhD, MPH, MSW, MA

Six Virtual Sessions  
(1/19/21 – 4/3/21)

We will be hosting a Spring 2022 study group that includes material on

the updated 2020 NCHEC Areas of Responsibility. Want to join? Stay connected for more updates!



WCU MPH CHES Study Group  
*What to Expect*

- ▶ Two-hour sessions reviewing material – each week is 1 area of responsibility
- ▶ Content mixed with poll questions and a closing Kahoot
- ▶ Before our last sessions, we will instruct you will take the 1<sup>st</sup> practice exam
  - ▶ The 2<sup>nd</sup> practice exam and other online materials can be taken on your own time, but questions during the study sessions will be pulled from practice exam 2
- ▶ Additional resources will be provided to you throughout the study session

## Career Planning for Public Health International Students: A Panel Discussion

02/25/21

### Panelists

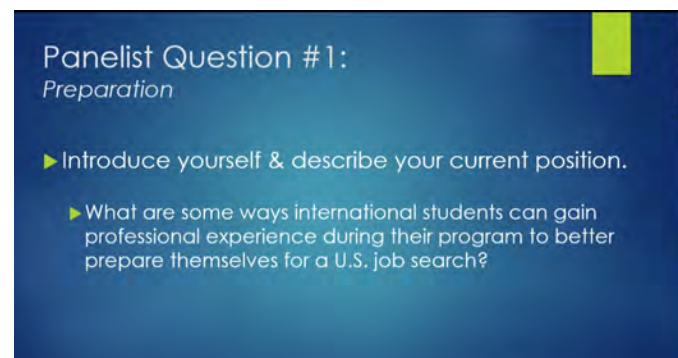
Charity Alinda, MPA, Assistant Director of International Programs, WCU Center for International Programs

Amber Pleasants, MA, CCC, Assistant Director, WCU Twardowski Career Development Center

Amanda Machonis, MS, CCC, Assistant Director, WCU Twardowski Career Development Center

Stacy Wright, MPH '15, CHES®, Communication Officer and Research Writer, Ministry of Health & Wellness, St. Andrew, Jamaica

Amrit Baral, MPH '20, MBBS, Disease Investigation Specialist, Chester County Health Department



Panelist Question #1:  
*Preparation*

- ▶ Introduce yourself & describe your current position.
  - ▶ What are some ways international students can gain professional experience during their program to better prepare themselves for a U.S. job search?

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## A Call to Serve the Community: PA SOPHE Public Health Career Panel

03/03/21

### **Guest**

Frederick Schulze DEd, MCHES®, President, PA SOPHE; Professor, Lock Haven University

### **Panelists**

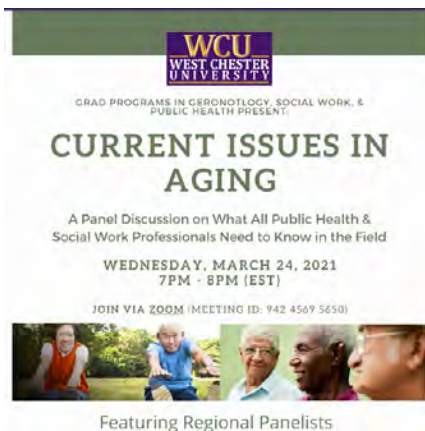
Antar Bush, MPH '17, MSW, DSW Student; formally Health Education Coordinator, AIDS Coordinating Office of Philadelphia

Casey Fenoglio, MPH '18, CHES®, Community Wellness Program Manager, Pottstown Hospital

Jordan Fuhrmeister, MPH '16, CHES®, Associate Project Director, Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE)

Chelsey Price, MPH '13, MCHES®, Project Manager, Grants Universal Health Services, Inc.; Adjunct Faculty Member, West Chester University

Aerielle Waters, MPH '13, CHES®, Public Health Program Administrator, PA Department of Health, Bureau of Family Health



### **Current Issues in Aging: What All Public Health & Social Work Professionals Need to Know in the Field**

3/24/2021

**Hosts:** Dr. Stacie Metz and Dr. Angela Lavery (WCU Graduate Social Work faculty and Interdisciplinary Gerontology Graduate Certificate Graduate Coordinator)

### **Guests**

Terri Clark, MPH, SAGECare Certified Trainer, Outreach Specialist, City of Philadelphia – Department of Public Health

Stephanie Cole, MA, Director of Special Projects, Office of the Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Aging, Harrisburg, PA

Chad Lassiter, MSW, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission, Philadelphia, PA

Denise Getgen, RN, Director, Protective Services Office, PA Department of Aging  
Najja Orr, MBA, President and CEO, Philadelphia Corporation for Aging, Philadelphia, PA



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## THE PLIGHT OF FOOD INSECURITY AND COVID-19: A PANEL DISCUSSION SURROUNDING CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS



MPH student Christina Shiller coordinated and facilitated a timely MPH Professional Development virtual panel discussion on April 7, 2021 with regional community partners and leaders on food insecurity and the intersecting considerations of COVID-19 and culture. Read the Event Report-Out found on our WCU MPH Community LinkedIn.



### Panelists

Sarah F. Geiger; Director, Agency Relations, Philabundance

Andrea Youndt; CEO, Roberta Consentino; Manager of Healthy Food Access Programs,  
Lauren Van Dyk; Volunteer Manager Phoenixville Area, Chester County Food Bank

Mary Fuller; Executive Director, Community Services

Chyna Hart; Graduate Assistant and Manager, West Chester University's Resource Pantry

### **Virtual Micro-Mentoring event**

4/15/21

As a SOPHE Collegiate Champion 2020-21, MPH-Health Care Management student Doris Swarn coordinated and invited students to the *April 15<sup>th</sup> Virtual Micro-Mentoring event* presented by SOPHE and WCU-MPH. Students had the opportunity to speak to public health professionals in fields ranging from healthcare to policy about their journey and the advice they had to offer to students and young professionals. Most of the mentors are included in the photo.



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## Interprofessional Education (IPE) Learning Event a grand success!

The Departments of Graduate Social Work and Health for the first time arranged an Interprofessional Education (IPE) Learning Event on April 10 & 11, 2021. This event brought together Master of Social Work (MSW) and Master of Public Health (MPH) students virtually (via Zoom) to interact and learn together as part of an interprofessional team. The event was organized by the IPE Task Force (Community Group) that included Drs. Allison Neff and Julie Tennille from Graduate Social Work, Drs. Stacie Metz and Gopal Sankaran from Health, and Dr. Bridgett Asempapa from Counselor Education.

Students were provided background readings focused on Bronfenbrenner's Ecological Model and a case scenario that focused on the intersectionality of opioid addiction with multiple factors such as race, homelessness, and lack of coordinated care. They also reviewed material on the four Core Competencies for Interprofessional Collaborative Practice including: 1) Values and Ethics, 2) Roles and Responsibilities, 3) Interprofessional Communication, and 4) Teams and Teamwork (IPEC, 2016).

The event took place in four three-hour sessions from 9.00 am to noon and 1.00 pm to 4.00 pm on Saturday, April 10<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup>. All participants from the MSW and the MPH programs were preassigned to a group (n = 7-8) focused on intervention at one of the following five levels – the Individual, the Family, Treatment, the Community, and Prevention. Students, working in their assigned team (through Zoom Breakout Rooms), used their background knowledge and analysis of the case scenario to come up with an in-depth presentation that they shared with the larger group (n = 35-40). Faculty from Health and Graduate Social Work (from both West Chester and Philadelphia campuses) participated as observers/facilitators and actively interacted with the students during the Q&A sessions.

Participating students individually will develop reflective papers post-IPE Learning Event and submit as part of their coursework in the MSW or the MPH course they are enrolled in.

A research component of this IPE Learning Event, led by Dr. Metz, included a pretest and posttest administration of a questionnaire via REDCap to all participating students. The research proposal was approved by the Institutional Review Board of West Chester University and participation in this research was voluntary. Students who chose to participate did so after providing informed consent. A summary of the results from this research will be published in a future issue of MPH Connections.

Dr. Metz and Dr. Sankaran gratefully acknowledge the enormous effort put in by Dr. Neff from the Graduate Social Work department to make this event happen. They also appreciate all the graduate students (MSW and MPH) for their active participation and contribution to everyone's learning.

For more information on interprofessional collaborative practice, please visit the Interprofessional Education Collaborative (IPEC) website at <https://www.ipecollaborative.org/>.

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# COMPASS Program

Commitment to the Objective of Mentoring, Perseverance, Achievement, Sustainability, and Success



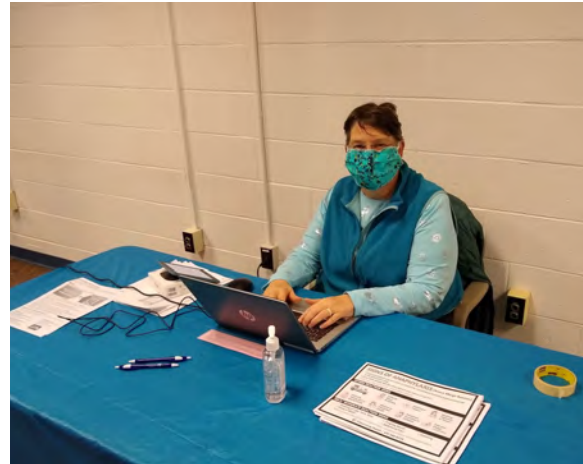
West Chester University is empowering and supporting Black male students through a proactive initiative designed to defy a national trend in racial equity gaps for Black men in college. The COMPASS (Commitment to the Objective of Mentoring, Perseverance, Achievement, Sustainability, and Success) Program has Black male students raising their hands to participate in an effort developed to help them excel. Based upon

a multi-tiered strategy, the program offers an individualized approach to student success that is enhanced by weekly sessions with graduate-student academic mentors. In its second year as a pilot, the COMPASS Program was developed by **Dr. Tammy James**, professor of health and coordinator of academic support services, and is based on the highly successful model that she continues to lead for the University's student athletes.

The program has been featured on 6abc Action News; click here to view <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UyWizlLz4AE>

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## Retired Professor Volunteers at Vaccination Clinic alongside Wife



This winter retired **Professor Emeritus Chuck Shorten** from the Environmental Health Program and his wife, **Pat**, have been volunteering at vaccination clinics held by the Chester County Department of Health. As members of the Medical Reserve Corps, they served at five different COVID-19 vaccination clinics in February and March, all of which were held in Sturzebecker HSC. “It was great being back in Sturzebecker doing work that makes a real difference,” Dr. Shorten said. Pat and Chuck served as registration volunteers, making sure that those arriving at the clinic were properly entered into the database and enrolled for both their first and second vaccine doses. Over the five clinics, they worked with the County DOH and the Chester County Hospital to serve about 3,000 patients. Many of those who received their vaccinations at one of the clinics commented on how well they were run, although there were some scheduling bumps along the way. As Pennsylvania and Chester County move forward with this unprecedented, huge public vaccination effort the conditions and procedures used by patients, volunteers and staff have evolved. The Shortens plan to continue volunteering as long as they are needed.

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# Faculty Accomplishments

Includes presentation by MPH students under faculty guidance

## Scholarly Activity

**Edelblute, Heather.** COVID-19 in the Latinx Community: A Population Health Perspective. Latina/o Communities Conference, West Chester University, West Chester, PA, 9/30/20 (Virtual).

**Heyward, D. (student), & Oladosu, Miskyat (student),** The Opioid Crisis and its Impact on Coroner/Medical Examiner Services in Pennsylvania, Research and Creative Activity Day, College of Health Sciences, West Chester University, West Chester, PA, 4/29/21 (Virtual).

**Kiersten Millward (student), Heather Edelblute, and Zeinab Baba.** Mental Health in Sub-Saharan African Immigrant Students: Exploring the Effects of Stigma, 4th Annual Conference on Migration and Health, University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, TX, 3/26/21 (Virtual).

**Kiersten Millward (student), Heather Edelblute, and Zeinab Baba.** Mental Health in Sub-Saharan African Immigrant Students: Exploring the Effects of Stigma. 2nd Annual West Chester University (WCU) Virtual Research and Creative Activity Day, West Chester, PA, 4/29/21 (Virtual).

**Mabintu Donzo (student), Heather Edelblute, and Zeinab Baba.** Help-seeking Behavior in Sub-Saharan African College Students: Does Degree Status Matter?, 4th Annual Conference on Migration and Health, University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, TX, 3/26/21 (Virtual).

**Mabintu Donzo (student), Heather Edelblute, and Zeinab Baba.** Mental Help-Seeking Behavior in Sub-Saharan African College Students in the US. 2nd Annual West Chester University (WCU) Virtual Research and Creative Activity Day, West Chester, PA, 4/29/21 (Virtual).

**Metz, S. M., Patel, K. (student), & Sharma, S. (student).** (2021, April). The physical and psychological effects of a low-dose 6-week mindfulness of mothers in the fourth trimester and beyond: Program evaluation report. Unpublished consulting report prepared for Arianne Missimer Shuma, DPT, RD, Founder/CEO, *Movement Paradigm Center*.

**Patel, Kena (student) & Naik, Shivani (student),** Opioid Prevention in Higher Education in a Virtual Environment due to the COVID Pandemic, Research and Creative

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Activity Day, College of Health Sciences, West Chester University, West Chester, PA, 4/29/21 (Virtual).

**Sankaran, G.** (2021). Invited Lecture. *Health Disparities in LMICs*. Virtual presentation in PH 340: Global Health course at Fort Lewis College, Durango, Colorado on Wednesday, February 17.

**Sankaran, G.** (2021). Invited Seminar. *COVID-19 and Sustainable Development Goals – The Pandemic, Politics, and the Road Ahead*. Virtual presentation in Sustainability Research and Practice Seminar Series at West Chester University, Pennsylvania on Wednesday, March 10.

**Shannon Fyalkowski (student), Heather Edelblute, Chiwoneso Tinago, and Zeinab Baba.** Exploring Acculturative Stress in African Immigrant Students in the US: Implications for Mental Health Care, 4th Annual Conference on Migration and Health, University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, TX, 3/26/21 (Virtual).

**Zeinab Baba and Heather Edelblute.** Mental Health Needs in Students from Sub-Saharan Africa: Findings from the Healthy Minds Network. World Congress of Epidemiology, Melbourne, Australia. 9/3/21 (Accepted).

**Zimondi, Abigail (student).** Given that participation in “Shared Reading” groups appears to increase mindfulness and improve quality of life in undergraduate students, what experiences most impact participants?, Research and Creative Activity Day, West Chester University, PA, 4/29/21 (Virtual).

### Professional Development

**Sankaran, G.** (2021). Committee for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CELT) Spring Book Club. *Culturally Responsive Teaching and Reflection in Higher Education*. Virtual discussion meetings at West Chester University, Pennsylvania on Tuesday, February 23; Tuesday, March 23, and Tuesday, April 20.

### Professional and Community Service

**Sankaran, G.** (2021). Appointed to serve as a member of the Publications Board of the American Public Health Association for a period of three years beginning October 2020.

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## **Publications**

**Brenner, James; Nolt, Kate L.; Frazier, Linda; Schauer, Gillian; Silver, Lynn D.; Valenti, Denise A.; Steinberg, Jane.** (2020). *A Public Health Approach to Regulating Commercially Legalized Cannabis*. American Public Health Association. Alcohol, Tobacco, Other Drug section Policy Statement. Approved October 24, 2020. <https://www.apha.org/Policies-and-Advocacy/Public-Health-Policy-Statements/Policy-Database/2021/01/13/A-Public-Health-Approach-to-Regulating-Commercially-Legalized-Cannabis>

**Edelblute, Heather and Claire Altman.** (2021) “Socioeconomic Determinants of Planned and Emergency Cesarean Section Births in Mexico.” *Springer Nature Comprehensive Clinical Medicine*, 3(3), 796-804. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s42399-021-00784-9>.

**Edelblute, Heather and Claire Altman.** (Forthcoming) “Breastfeeding, Father Absence, and Social Support: Evidence from Mexico.” *Breastfeeding Medicine*.

## **Faculty Honors**

**Dr. Chiwoneso Tinago and Dr. Gopal Sankaran** were nominated for the *9th annual Academic Advising Appreciation Award*, a recognition provided by the Division of Undergraduate Studies and Student Support Services and Omicron Delta Kappa Honor Society. This award signifies academic advisees recognizing the good work of faculty members who have made meaningful contributions to the lives of students on campus and helped with their academic and career planning at West Chester University. Drs. Tinago and Sankaran, along with academic advisors from across campus, were recognized at a virtual celebratory event on Wednesday, April 28, 2021. President Christopher Fiorentino complimented the academic advisors on their work towards student success.

**Dr. Melanie Vile and Dr. Gopal Sankaran** were recognized by the Honors College for *Outstanding Teaching in 2020-21*. As an annual tradition, the Honors College and Honors Student Association sponsor a spring Outstanding Faculty Reception to celebrate faculty who students identified as going above and beyond in their gifts as educators. Drs. Vile and Sankaran were recognized, along with other honorees, at a virtual reception on Wednesday, April 21, 2021. President Christopher Fiorentino offered his congratulations to all honorees.

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## **Grants**

### **CHS Global Health Research Team Members Awarded \$10,000 Provost FY2022 Grant**

The project titled *Assessing the Impact of a Rabbit Farming Project on Household Income, Food Security, and Empowerment in Uganda* will begin in July 2021. **Dr. Chiwoneso Tinago** (Assistant Professor, Health) is the Principal Investigator and is collaborating with co-investigators from the College of Health Sciences Global Health Research Team (in alphabetical order): **Dr. Zeinab Baba** (Assistant Professor, Health), **Dr. Patricia Davidson** (Associate Professor, Nutrition), **Dr. Kimberly Johnson** (Associate Professor, Nutrition), **Dr. Whitney Katirai** (Associate Professor, Health), and **Dr. Gopal Sankaran** (Professor, Health). **Victoria Pauline** (MPH Student) assisted with the development of the proposal. The researchers will partner with Kigezi Healthcare Foundation (KIHFO) a non-profit organization dedicated to community development in Kigezi region, Uganda.

*Have a wonderful summer!  
Be safe and remain healthy.*