

# COLLEGE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH & SOCIAL JUSTICE

## Office of Public Health Practice Annual Report 2021-2022 Academic Year

### Goals and Metrics

#### Enhance Community Engagement

- Held six presentations with community-based practitioners
- Sent email to community members each semester offering student assistance with short-term projects
- Met individually with 4 organizations to discuss OPHP services

#### Increase Student Exposure to the Community

- Collaborated with APEX to increase internship preceptors and identify employers
- Held panel with community organization members that discussed their journey to working effectively with and in the community
- Developing an employer database, which will help populate our external advisory board and be useful for CEPH accreditation

#### Enhance Alumni Engagement

- Added 1 new alum to External Advisory Board and continue to identify potential board members
- Asked External Advisory Board (including 17 alumni) about their interest in recruitment and guest lecturing
- Continue to share Alumni Spotlights and Job Notices online
- Worked with Advisory Boards to improve academic offerings, including a standing agenda item on student preparation

#### Facilitate Programs and Technical Assistance for Workforce Development

- Formally moved the Academic Health Department into OPHP
- Hosted 4 events through the Academic Health Department
- Asked Advisory Boards for ideas about workforce development that the OPHP can support
- Conducting a training needs assessment with the City and County Public Health Departments to guide offerings

### HIGHLIGHTS

For the last four years, the Office of Public Health Practice (OPHP) has functioned to enhance community partnerships and alumni relations; promote community-engaged learning; and increased practice based research. This year, we hosted many events, continued to expand our social media presence, collaborated with internal and external partners, led the CPHSJ reaccreditation process, and brought on our incoming director, Spring Schmidt. In this report, you will find:

- Goals and Metrics
- Alumni Spotlights
- OPHP Transitions
- Urban Health Collaborative
- LinkedIn Metrics
- Community Engagement
- Advisory Boards
- CEPH Accreditation
- OPHP Evaluation
- Events
- Ways to Stay Involved

### Alumni Spotlights

In the fall of 2020, our External Advisory Board challenged us to share alumni stories and promote the work of SLU grads. Thus, we launched our Alumni Spotlight project, which has continued to grow. As of April 1, 2022, we have spotlighted 42 public health alumni (BSPH and MPH), including 22 during the 2021-2022 academic year. Thank you to all who have nominated alumni to be featured, and thank you to all the alumni who have participated! We plan to continue featuring one alum each week on our LinkedIn page. You can see our past alumni spotlights on LinkedIn and the CPHSJ social media. [See an example here.](#)



## OPHP Transitions: Notes from our Outgoing Director, Dr. Darcy Scharff

In 1990, I left the field of nursing committed to helping create change at a bigger level, beyond my individual patients. My journey into public health was with SLU, first in the Center for Health Services Education and Research, then the School of Public Health, and now the College for Public Health and Social Justice. In my 30 plus years I have had many opportunities at the CPHSJ, not least of which was developing and leading the Office of Public Health Practice (OPHP), and for which I am grateful because they all helped me grow as a professional and a person. I have worked with terrific staff, faculty, and deans, many of whom collaborated with me and supported my work. For that I say thank you. I have felt particularly rewarded through my work with students (you guys rock!) and community members. I am so appreciative for being allowed to teach and work with all of you!

It is now time for me to move on and leave SLU, the CPHSJ, OPHP, and the Academic Health Department (AHD). And I couldn't be more excited to leave it in the terrific hands of Spring Schmidt, PhD(c). Over the years I have had the opportunity to work with Spring and she continually impresses me. She is bright, articulate, clever, and a great partner. She comes with 17 years of public health experience, including helping to lead the St. Louis County Department of Health during the height of the pandemic. She will be a terrific asset to the CPHSJ and she is very excited to join the OPHP. When asked about transition to the role, Spring replied: "*When I was a local practitioner of public health, the OPHP showed me that that my organization was valued as a collaborator and that preparing students to be practitioners was a core value for SLU. I am so pleased to transition to this role and continue to generate momentum for being a connection between students, faculty, community partners and the broader public health system.*"

You all are in GREAT hands.

Darcy Scharff, PhD



Outgoing Director, Darcy Scharff



Incoming Director, Spring Schmidt

## Urban Health Collaborative

This project, originally a collaboration with Drexel university and 3 other universities, identifies the best city-level initiatives to improve health equity. Now, our team is creating a report of initiatives specifically passed by the St. Louis City government in collaboration with an employee at the City health department. This project will be completed by May 2022.



## LinkedIn Metrics



Alumni Spotlights and local job listings were our posts with the most engagement. Over the past year our page had:

57  
34  
549

- 119 page views each month
- 515 total reactions
- 47,753 total impressions
- 9.2% monthly engagement rate

## Community Engagement

We held meetings with TrailNet, Safe Connections, Walk in Faith, Northside Senior Youth Service Consortium and were able to pair two students with organizations. Additionally, we worked with the Ignatian scholarship program to produce community volunteer opportunities for students. Feedback for these projects showed that every student learned beneficial skills from working in the community, and counted their project as valuable experience. If you know of community partners who could use student support, please let us know.



## Advisory Boards

The OPHP has two Advisory Boards - an Internal Advisory Board composed of faculty, staff, and students; and an External Advisory Board composed of employers, preceptors, and alumni, as well as a few faculty members and students. As outlined by the Charter, both Advisory Boards met once per semester. Meeting topics included OPHP activities and engagement; increasing student involvement in community; CEPH accreditation; CPHSJ strategic plan; and mentorship. The OPHP is always looking for new board members for the External Advisory Board. Additionally, we are seeking three public health students to serve on the advisory boards beginning in Fall 2022, as all current student members are graduating. Please send recommendations to Spring Schmidt.

## CEPH Accreditation

We conducted an alumni survey and held two focus groups to gather feedback from recent MPH graduates. Outcomes of the survey and focus groups will be available in summer 2022. Please let us know if you have any suggestions for how we can better connect with alumni to gather their feedback and experiences.

## OPHP Evaluation

For all OPHP goals and projects, we track metrics to be sure we are moving forward in our work. Each goal, metric, and process is linked to standards outlined by CEPH accreditation requirements. Evaluation examples for each OPHP goal are illustrated below.

Goal	Metric	Process
Community Engagement	Community Partnerships	Hold meetings with community members; send invitations biannually to community organizations
Student Exposure to the Community	Short term and volunteer student opportunities	Send invitation to community organizations and students biannually; assess student perceptions of the experience
Alumni Engagement	Alumni engaged in CPHSJ activities	Track number of alumni on advisory boards, guest lectures, presentations, alumni spotlights
Workforce Development	Events	Host events for students and practitioners; promote events via email and social media

## OPHP Events

We again sponsored and co-sponsored many workforce development events. With ongoing concern about the pandemic, and to best accommodate our speakers and attendees, we held all events virtually again this year. We hope to resume providing more in-person events in the future.

The event with the highest attendance this year was the Region VII Academic Health Department Conference, (150), followed by the Academic Health Department in Action (72) and the Community Partnerships Panel (42). Most events are eligible for 1 CPH CEU and are marketed to students, alumni, faculty, staff, and public health practitioners.

\*list at right is not all-inclusive

## National Public Health Week

For the first time, the OPHP was an active partner in National Public Health Week. We shared posts on our LinkedIn page, including daily themes, alumni spotlights, and ways to get involved. We hosted a panel, Voices from the Field : Centering Wellbeing as a Public Health Professional during NPHW, and also helped promote and co-sponsor several other events in the CPHSJ. Other partners included the BSPH program, Public Health Club, and Atlas Week. The OPHP team took the lead on getting all of CPHSJ's events uploaded to the NPHW Events site.

Community Partnerships: Cultivation and Continuation  
October 20, 2021

with Rose Anderson-Rice, Generate Health and  
Riisa Rawlings-Easley, St. Louis Regional Health Commission  
*Co-sponsored with MPH APEX/Professional Development*

Fireside Chat with Monique Norfolk  
November 11, 2021

Speaker: Monique Norfolk, Mosaic Beginnings, LLC

Academic Health Department: A Three Part Series  
Fall 2021

St. Louis Academic Health Department In Action  
Tour of the St. Louis City Department of Health  
Virtual Tour of the St. Louis County Department of Health  
Speakers included staff and colleagues from SLU and both health departments

Voices from the Field: Centering Wellbeing as a Public Health Professional  
April 7, 2022

with Jennifer Brinkmann, Alive and Well Communities,  
Serena Muhammad, St. Louis Mental Health Board,  
Spring Schmidt, OPHP/MOCPHE, and  
Ethan Wankum, St. Louis County Department of Public Health

Launching Your International Healthcare Career  
April 7, 2022

with Nicholas Comninellis, INMED  
*Co-sponsored with First Year Scholars Medallion program & BSPH program*

Career Spotlight  
April 7, 2022

with Madeline Spear, Stryker  
Kristen M. Stevens Hobbs, National Minority Quality Forum,  
Vidur Sharma, Policy Advisor for Testing at the White House, and  
G Tharp, The Lewin Group  
*Co-sponsored with BSPH program*

### There are many ways to stay in touch with the OPHP!

- Follow us on [LinkedIn](#)
- Follow the [CPHSJ Facebook page](#)
- Visit our [Website](#)
- [Nominate a SLU BSPH or MPH Alum to be Spotlitged](#)
- If you are an alum, [send us your updated contact information](#)

Please contact Spring Schmidt, [spring.schmidt@slu.edu](mailto:spring.schmidt@slu.edu), with any questions or feedback.