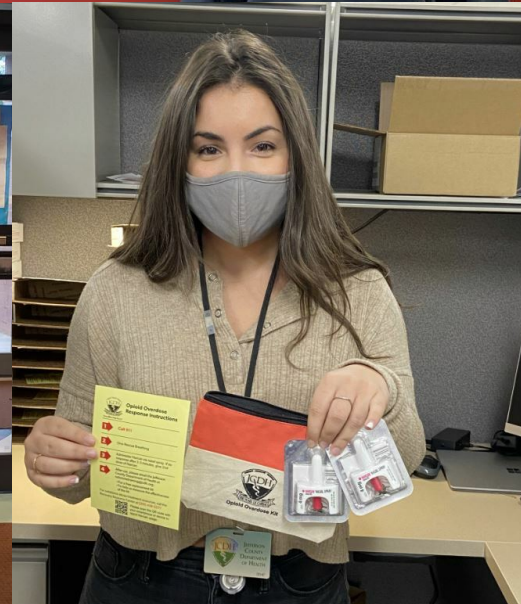


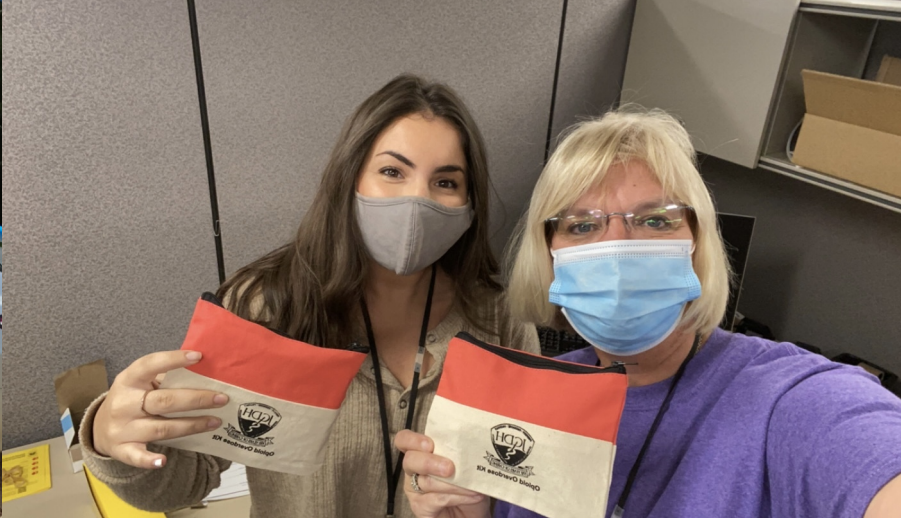
# PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE



## SPRING 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Covering AY 2020-2021







## MISSION:

To provide real world application of the knowledge and skills necessary to perform essential public health services to improve the population's health.

## GOAL:

To promote and enhance engagement between the practice community and the School of Public Health's faculty, staff, students, and alumni.

[uab.edu/soph/home/about/practice](http://uab.edu/soph/home/about/practice)  
[sites.uab.edu/apex](http://sites.uab.edu/apex)

Welcome to the 2022 UAB School of Public Health Office of Public Health Practice (OPHP) Annual Report, covering Academic Year 2020-2021. This report provides an opportunity to reflect on the outstanding accomplishments in public health practice by the members of the UAB School of Public Health. The practice of public health is a complex interchange that relies on the contributions of multiple disciplines and community partners. It is the application of the knowledge and skills necessary to perform the essential public health services and other activities to improve the population's health. This report focuses on the many ways in which we engage our practice partners and highlights the practice-based learning opportunities available to our students. In addition, this report will provide you with a glimpse of the contributions made to our communities through co-curricular activities hosted by the OPHP, School of Public Health student organizations, and through other volunteer support activities. We hope you take the opportunity to review this report and to see the contributions being made by the UAB School of Public Health.

Sincerely,

**DR. LISA MCCORMICK**

ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR PUBLIC  
HEALTH PRACTICE





# Applied Practice Experiences

The applied practice experience is an opportunity for students to acquire ‘real world’ public health experience, apply concepts learned in the class to actual projects, and explore different public health settings. The applied practice experience is a required component for all students working towards a graduate professional public health degree (MPH or DrPH). At the MPH level, the applied practice experience takes the form of an internship; at the DrPH level, a practicum. Below are highlights from the applied practice experience program.

## MASTERS OF PUBLIC HEALTH (MPH) INTERNSHIPS

# 177

STUDENTS COMPLETING  
MPH INTERNSHIPS

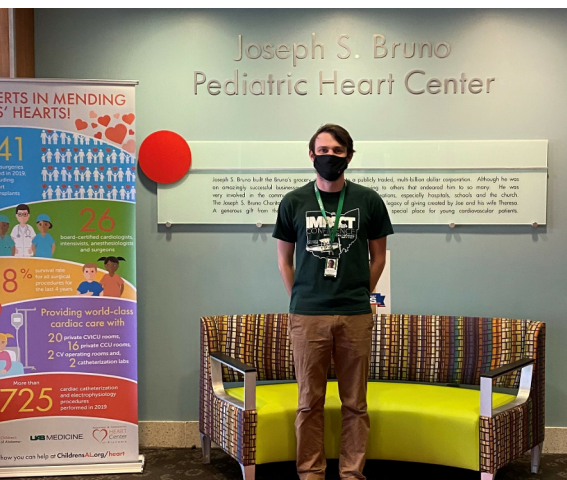
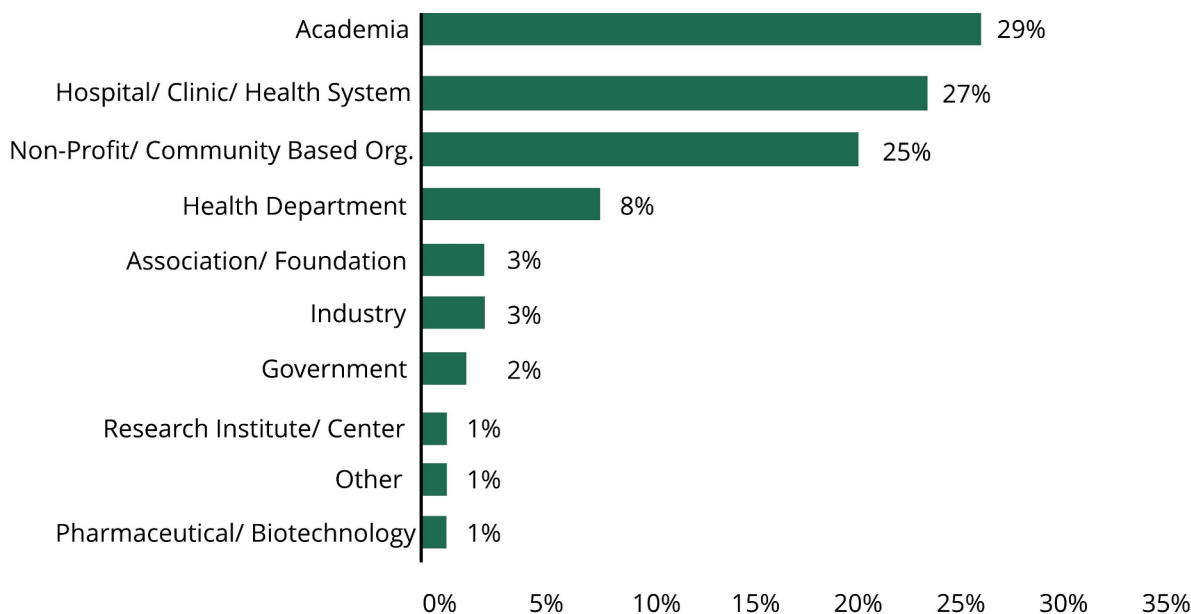
# 32,484

HOURS WORKED WITH OR ON  
BEHALF OF INTERNSHIP  
SITES

# 126

UNIQUE MPH INTERNSHIP  
SITES HOSTING STUDENTS

### PERCENTAGE OF MPH INTERNSHIPS BY INDUSTRY

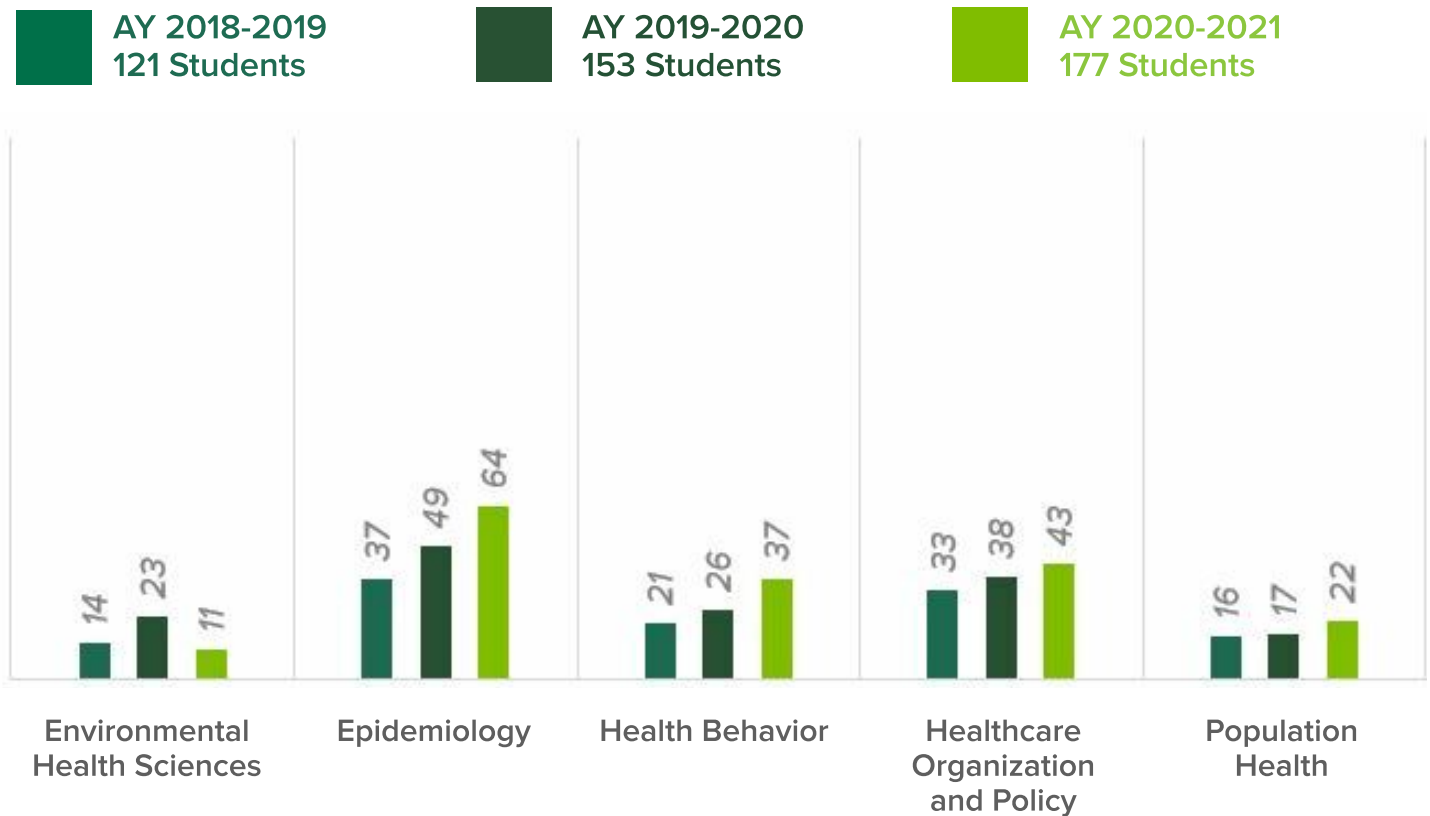




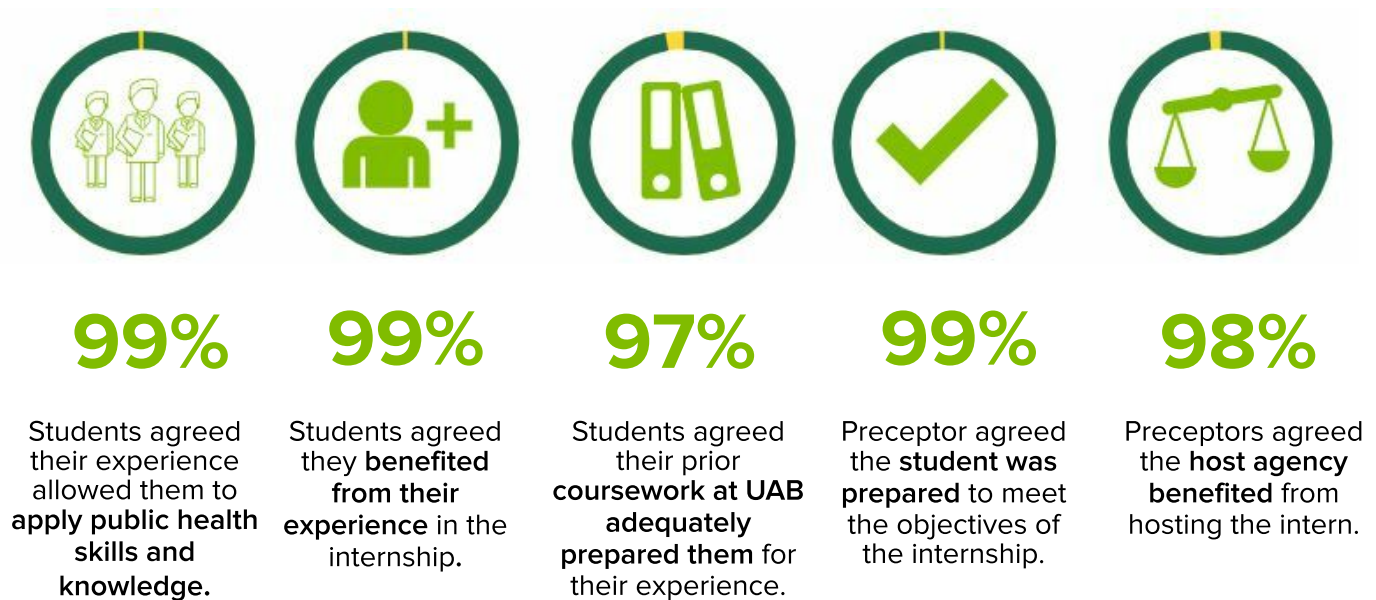
# Applied Practice Experiences

## MPH INTERNSHIPS

### MPH INTERNSHIPS BY ACADEMIC YEAR AND DEPARTMENT



### INTERNSHIP IMPACTS





# Applied Practice Experiences

## MPH INTERNSHIPS

### STUDENT SELF-ASSESSMENT OF FINAL COMPETENCIES SELECTED

Top 5 Competencies Selected on Student's Final Reflection of Experience	Avg. Rating Prior to Internship	Avg. Rating After Internship	Change
MPH19: Communicate audience-appropriate public health content, both in writing and through oral presentation (N=101)	2.30	3.63	(+) 1.32
MPH 18: Select communication strategies for different audiences and sectors. (N=80)	2.34	3.55	(+) 1.21
MPH 04: Interpret results of data analysis for public health research, policy or practice. (N=77)	1.95	3.35	(+) 1.40
MPH 07: Assess population needs, assets, and capacities that affect communities' health. (N=74)	1.93	3.51	(+) 1.58
MPH 09: Design a population-based policy, program, project or intervention. (N=65)	1.89	3.46	(+) 1.57

**\*Student Self Rating Scale:** Not at all confident (0), Only slightly confident (1), Somewhat confident (2), Moderately confident (3), Very confident (4)

## DOCTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH (DRPH) PRACTICUMS

In 2020-2021, two DrPH students completed their practicums, some extending over multiple semesters.



### LIZA KIMBO, MSC, MBA

Practicum: Assessment and acceptability of use of the Proximie Digital Health Technology Platform for Caesarean Surgery Support

Site: South Lake Medical Center, Kenya

*"The [practicum] experience was enlightening for me, and I could see the increased enthusiasm from the hospital team in developing solutions based on the data gathered."*



### ANASTASIA ARYNCHYNA, MPH

Practicum: Spina Bifida Patient Care and Physician's Knowledge of Folic Acid Fortification Efforts: Global Perspectives from Pediatric Neurosurgery

Site: World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies

*"When I applied to UAB, I knew I wanted to work in preventative medicine to make a difference that affects populations. When we decided to be bold and work with the World Health Organization to pass a resolution to mandate fortification of foods with folate to save lives and prevent disabling condition, I was beyond ecstatic!"*



# Other Practice-Based Learning

## INTEGRATIVE LEARNING EXPERIENCES (ILE)

All MPH students are required to participate in the Integrative Learning Experience (ILE), or MPH Capstone Course. In 2020/2021, the ILE format changed allowing students to complete this culminating experience with faculty in their public health concentration area. Through the ILE, students demonstrate synthesis of foundational and concentration-specific knowledge and skills through practice-based projects.



### CIPES LEADERSHIP FELLOWS

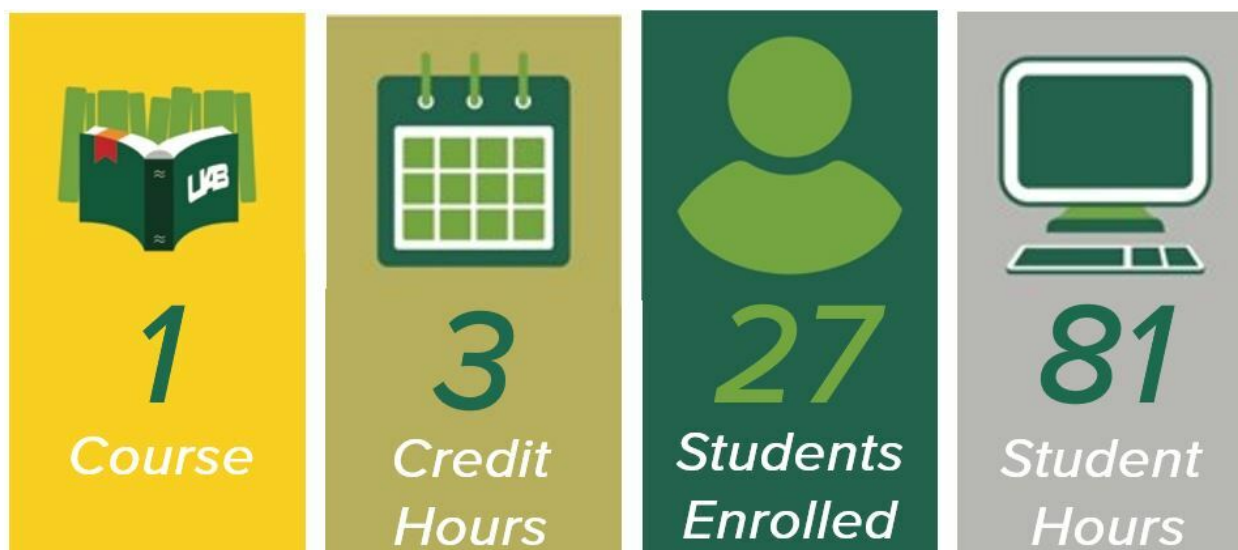
In 2021, Dr. Kelley Swatzell completed the CIPES Leadership Fellows program. The University of Alabama at Birmingham, Faculty Interprofessional Leadership (IPL) Fellows program is designed to develop faculty members' interprofessional education and leadership capacity. Three members of the UAB SOPH faculty have completed this program thus far.

## INTERPROFESSIONAL LEARNING EXPERIENCES (IPE)

Public health practitioners must understand how to work effectively on interprofessional teams and be able to integrate perspectives from other sectors and/or professions to promote and advance population health. During the AY 2020-2021, 355 public health students participated in interprofessional learning experiences (IPE). Below are examples of IPE offered through the School of Public Health.

- **Students Helping At-Risk Patients (SHARP)**  
91 Public Health students participated
- **Interprofessional Team Training (IPTT)**  
98 Public Health students participated
- **IP Collaboratory**  
67 Public Health students participated
- **Poverty Simulation**  
99 Public Health students participated

## PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE LEARNING\*



\*Because of COVID-19 restrictions, service learning was limited in the 2020-2021 academic year.



# Student Testimonials



## KAYLA M. TORRES

### *Master of Public Health candidate in Health Policy and Organization*

I am currently enrolled in the Master of Public Health in Health Policy and Organization. I selected this program because, in the near future, I would love to create a non-profit organization to educate teenagers, especially in the Hispanic community, on how to prevent sexually transmitted diseases and unwanted pregnancies.

The most memorable part of my MPH internship was the new connections and relationships I built with the under-served communities. Additionally, participating in meetings strengthened my knowledge of different concepts of public health.

Having built new relationships benefits my experience, considering I can communicate with the community to implement new initiatives. Learning how to gather quantitative and qualitative data helped me create a better path for my future, considering I feel prepared to work with under-served communities.

## UTTAM KOTRU, MD, MPH

### *Master of Public Health in Epidemiology Graduate, April 2021 Epidemiologist, Southwestern District, ADPH*

I am a physician from India and was interested in working in public health after completing my MD, so I chose to study Epidemiology at UAB. I completed my internship at the Alabama Department of Public Health in Tuscaloosa where I was involved in the drive-thru COVID -19 vaccination clinics. Here, I managed the maintenance of each clinic to ensure they ran smoothly.

During my internship, I worked with additional interdisciplinary departments including Environmental Services, Infectious Diseases, Emergency Medical Services, and more.

My internship at ADPH gave me a strong understanding as to how much my MPH degree can serve me in a state health department, and at the same time, provide an employment opportunity.



# Community Partner Highlights: The Alabama Department of Public Health



## Q&A WITH KEN HARRISON

*Workforce Development Program Coordinator,  
Office of Human Resources at the Alabama Department of Public Health*

**Tell us a little about your role as the Workforce Development Program Coordinator with ADPH and in particular, your role in placing student interns at ADPH.**

One of the roles of the Workforce Development Program Coordinator with the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) is to serve as the internship coordinator, including collaboration with the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Public Health and other universities to place non-clinical interns within the department.

**How do internship experiences at ADPH prepare students to join the public health workforce?**

The internship experience offers an opportunity for students to learn about the roles and responsibilities of those working in public health, earn educational credits, gain valuable work experience, and explore new careers in public health.

**In general, how has ADPH benefited from hosting MPH interns?**

A strategy identified in ADPH's Workforce Development Plan is to recruit and retain a highly skilled workforce. To achieve this strategy, the department supports hosting students enrolled in educational institutions as interns. Through the internship program, students are offered an opportunity to make a positive contribution to the department and to develop professional skills and experience.

**What is the benefit of the UAB/ADPH MPH internship partnership?**

The 2021 ADPH/ UAB SOPH internship program resulted in four UAB MPH students placed in internships with various programs. One of the students, Uttam Kotru, MD, MPH completed his internship in the spring of 2021 and was hired in August 2021 as an Epidemiologist with the department. The partnership between ADPH and UAB SOPH has led to several interns beginning their professional careers with ADPH.

**Additional comments from ADPH staff regarding UAB interns:**

"The internship offers a great opportunity to bring fresh ideas and perspectives to the team. UAB interns have always been anxious to learn and enthusiastic to pitch in. The school provides a solid foundation for the applied epidemiology experience" said Sherri Davidson, State Epidemiologist.

"Uttam Kotru, MD, MPH served an internship on the COVID team at the Tuscaloosa County Health Department beginning January 2021. Dr. Kotru served our COVID clinics by observing patients after their vaccines, assisting with set up of the drive-through clinics, parking cars, handing out paperwork, breaking down clinics, and updating COVID vaccine cards. He was always on time and many days when we were very busy, he even stayed late to assist. Dr. Kotru was a great asset to our clinics and fit right in with our staff. I feel that Dr. Kotru's internship was a great success," said Demeta Brown, RN, Infection Prevention and Control Supervisor West Central District. Dr. Kotru was later hired by ADPH as an Epidemiologist (see page 6).



# Co-Curricular Activities

## STUDENT ORGANIZATION METRICS

**Community  
and Campus  
Engagement Events**



**26**

NUMBER OF EVENTS

**290**

ATTENDANCE

**Educational  
Events**



**23**

NUMBER OF EVENTS

**177**

ATTENDANCE



## PUBLIC HEALTH STUDENT ASSOCIATION (PHSA) EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

**PHSA Community Partner: The Magic City Acceptance Center**

PHSA AND USGA PRESENT:

### BUILDING BRIDGES TO ACHIEVE HEALTH EQUITY

Join PHSA and USGA to engage in a student led discussion on building bridges to achieve health equity in honor of National Public Health Week

**WHEN: TUESDAY, APRIL 6TH 11AM-12PM**  
**WHERE: ZOOM**

**Zoom Link:** <https://uab.zoom.us/j/93415181670?pwd=ZTNhbnBhRk9yZCJhNThtc0FRQk9yQ009>  
**Zoom Meeting ID:** 934 1518 1670

The Magic City Acceptance Center is dedicated to providing a brave and radically inclusive space for the LGBTQ community in Alabama. The Center offers both in-person and virtual programming to LGBTQ individuals of all ages across the state of Alabama. PHSA partnered with the Magic City Acceptance Center throughout the 2020-2021 academic year to bring awareness to the organization and their mission through events. These events helped to raise funds, collect supplies, and invited representatives to participate in a student-led panel discussion “Building Bridges to Health Equity” during the 2021 National Public Health Week.



# Student Engagement & Networking Events

## OTHER CO-SPONSORED EVENTS

### SOPH Student Career Center Utilization

**909**

Student Handshake  
Activation

**72**  
(average)

Student Career  
Fair Attendance

**67**  
(per semester)

Student Event  
Attendance Avg.

### Virtual Info Session with the Centers for Disease Control

September 2020  
70 students

During the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Virtual Information session, CDC representatives discussed part-time, full-time, and fellowship opportunities for undergrads, masters, graduate degree students at the CDC. Students were able to ask questions and learn more about what it's like working for the CDC!



### (7) Virtual Lunch and Learns with Alabama Department of Public Health

Spring 2-21 & Summer 2021

132 Public Health Undergrad & Grad Students

The Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) Virtual Lunch and Learns provided students the opportunity to meet with representatives from ADPH and to learn more about careers and other experiential learning opportunities within the state health department.

## Completion of the "Career Influencer Network" Certificate



Through the UAB Career Center, this certificate provides the opportunity to learn how to best support students in becoming career ready and achieving post-graduate success in today's quickly evolving world of work.



**Lisa McCormick, DrPH**  
Associate Dean for Public  
Health Practice



**Tessa Graham, MPH**  
Program Manager &  
Internship Coordinator

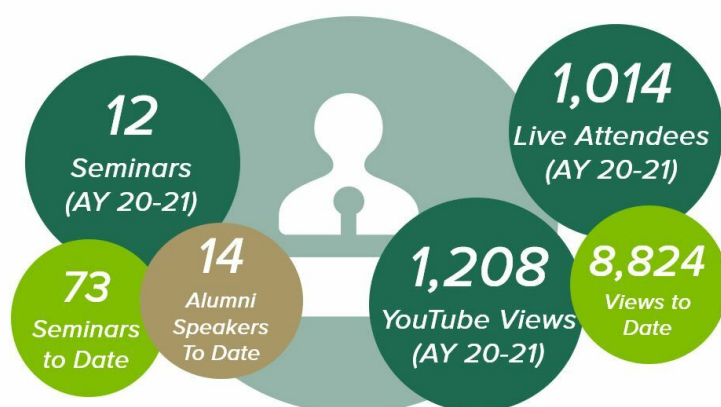


**Nicole Gravitt, MAEd**  
Undergraduate Advisor



# Community Engagement Initiatives

## SEMINARS & PODCASTS



### OPHP Seminar Series


Started in January 2016, the seminar series focuses on connecting students to different aspects of Public Health Practice.

 Represents seminar and podcast numbers for academic year 2020-2021



### Population Health Plug-in Podcasts

Launched in 2017, the podcast series highlights emerging public health topics and raises awareness of the work of community-based organizations.

 Represents seminar and podcast numbers since the start of the initiatives

## PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTITIONERS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS

73

Public health practitioners and community partners presenting guest lectures, seminars, or participating in the School of Public Health podcast series or networking events.

## FACULTY SERVING IN LEADERSHIP POSITIONS IN THE COMMUNITY

16

Faculty served in a leadership position

FOR

24

Community and Health Organizations

- Alabama Comprehensive Cancer Control Coalition
- Alabama Interfaith Refugee Partnership
- Alabama Suicide Prevention and Resource Coalition
- Altamont School Medical Advisory Committee
- American College of Epidemiology
- American Public Health Association
- Bib and Tucker Sew-Op
- Blackburn Institute
- Calliope Feminist Choir
- Central Alabama Caribbean American Organization
- Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
- Fresh Air Family Farm
- Greater Birmingham Alliance to Stop Pollution
- Global Advisor Committee
- Health Care Coalition
- Hispanic Interest Coalition of Alabama
- Highlands School
- Jewish Federation of Birmingham
- McWane Science Center
- Medical Education Cooperation with Cuba
- NorthStar Soccer
- Pathways
- Public Health Accreditation Board
- Research Advisory Council
- Women Under Construction

# Public Health Practitioners Affiliate Appointments

The Public Health Practitioner Affiliate program recognizes the collaboration between the UAB School of Public Health (SOPH) and those working in different areas of public health practice. Affiliates may engage with the SOPH in a number of ways, including as presenters, guest lecturers, mentors, and preceptors. They provide perspectives on current and emerging trends and share best-practices vital to the profession.

<b>Barry Cambron, MSHA, MBA</b> <b>Position:</b> Alabama Medicaid <b>Department of Affiliation:</b> Health Policy and Organization	<b>Drew Nelson, MPH</b> <b>Position:</b> Epidemiologist, Director, Quality Assurance Division, Alabama Medicaid Agency <b>Department of Affiliation:</b> Health Policy and Organization	<b>Barbara Wiseniewski, CIH, CSP, CPEA, SGE</b> <b>Position:</b> (Retired) Vice-President of Health Safety, McWane International <b>Department of Affiliation:</b> Environmental Health Sciences
<b>Karen Musgrove, PhD, LPC</b> <b>Position:</b> CEO, Birmingham AIDS Outreach, Magic City Acceptance Center, Magic City Wellness Center, Magic City Acceptance Academy <b>Department of Affiliation:</b> Health Behavior	<b>Susan Colburn</b> <b>Position:</b> State Parent Consultant with the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services, Children's Rehabilitation Services <b>Department of Affiliation:</b> Health Policy and Organization	<b>Andrew Perkins, MS, CIH, CSP, COHC</b> <b>Position:</b> Senior Industrial Hygienist, Alabama Power - A Southern Company <b>Department of Affiliation:</b> Environmental Health Sciences
<b>Carlos Robinson, CIH, CSP, MSPH, MBA</b> <b>Position:</b> Director, Environmental Health Science, McWane Incorporated <b>Department of Affiliation:</b> Environmental Health Sciences	<b>Jody Wireman, PhD, MSPH, MPA, CIH, DABT</b> <b>Position:</b> Senior Program Analyst, Force Readiness and Health Assurance, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs <b>Department of Affiliation:</b> Health Policy and Organization, Environmental Health Sciences	<b>Bryn Manzella, MPH</b> <b>Position:</b> Quality Improvement Officer/ Director of Quality Improvement, Jefferson County Department of Health <b>Department of Affiliation:</b> Health Policy and Organization





# Communication Initiatives

## GET A HANDLE NEWSLETTER

**UAB** THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM



**March 14, 2022**

**UAB**  
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
The University of Alabama at Birmingham



### Questions? Want to Request Publication?

Contact [ophp@uab.edu](mailto:ophp@uab.edu) to submit requests for publication. Requests must be received by 5:00 PM CT on Thursday prior to distribution for guaranteed inclusion in Monday's newsletter.

## NEWSLETTER STATISTICS

**47**

**Editions**  
Aug. 2020 - July 2021  
280+ Since Jan. 2016

**29.9%**

**Open Rate**  
Aug. 2020 - July 2021

**1,500**

**Individual Recipients  
per Newsletter**  
Aug. 2020 - July 2021

**8.2%**

**Click Rate**  
Aug. 2020 - Dec. 2021

# Other Initiatives Supported by the Office of Public Health Practice

**R-IV PHTC** Region IV Public Health Training Center

**COUNTERACT** UAB Research Center of Excellence in Arsenicals

**SUPERFUND** UAB Superfund Research Center

**ARCIPC** Alabama Regional Center for Infection Prevention and Control

**LTC** Alabama Nursing Home and Long-Term Care Strike Team

**K-12 COVID TESTING** COVID-19 Testing in Alabama's K-12 Schools Program

**POLICY SURVEILLANCE** Birmingham Policy Surveillance Initiative

## Office of Public Health Practice Staff



**Lisa McCormick, DrPH**  
*Associate Dean for  
Public Health Practice*



**Tessa Graham, MPH**  
*Program Manager Sph  
Programs, Internship  
Coordinator*



**Sabrina Hagen**  
*Business Officer*



**Luke Hanson, MPH**  
*Program Manager II,  
Internship Coordinator*



**Elena Kidd, MPH**  
*Program Manager II,  
Internship Coordinator*



**Meena Nabavi, MPH**  
*Program Manager,  
SPH Programs*

If you are interested in hosting an intern at your organization or for more information on the Office of Public Health Practice at the UAB School of Public Health, please email [ophp@uab.edu](mailto:ophp@uab.edu).





# SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

The University of Alabama at Birmingham

[uab.edu/soph](http://uab.edu/soph)

