

The Tennessee Public Health Workforce Development Consortium

Spring/Summer 2006 Newsletter



20 Graduates Complete the Applied Epidemiology Certificate

The Tennessee Public Health Workforce Development Consortium admitted its first class of students during the Spring semester of 2004. On May 23, 2006, the Consortium awarded 8 participants with the Applied Epidemiology Certificate at the Mid-Cumberland Regional Health Office. Those receiving the certificate in May were: Marilyn Barnes, Carla Coley, and Kevin Morris of West Tennessee Regional Office; David Brumley of Central Office; Stephan Crosier of Davidson County Metro; Linda Charlene Jessee of Northeast Regional Office; Barbara Laymon and Sharron McGuire of Chattanooga/Hamilton Metro.



Melinda McDaniels is congratulated by Commissioner Robinson after the May 2005 Graduation Ceremony

On December 19, 2005, at the Mid-Cumberland Regional Health Office in Nashville, 11 participants received their Applied Epidemiology Certificate. The students receiving the certificate were: Melissa Blair, Gary Self, and Thomas Shavor of Central Office; Anne Eakes and Ashley Morris of Mid-Cumberland Regional Health Office; Brenda Dugger of Memphis/Shelby County Health Office; Susan Michelle Casey of Northeast Regional Health Office; Pamela Isom, Sandy Moore, and Shannon Railling of Upper Cumberland Regional Health Office; and Bartie Scott of South Central Regional Health Office.



Mrs. Theresa Lindsey, Acting Assistant Commissioner of Health (far left) congratulates the Fall 2005 graduates. Students (2nd left to right): Ashley Morris, Anne Eakes, Susan Michelle Casey, Shannon Railling, Sandy Moore, Gary Self, and Melissa Blair. Not pictured: Brenda Dugger, Pamela Isom, Bartie Scott, and Thomas Shavor.

These 19 participants joined Melinda McDaniel of East Tennessee Regional Health Office, who completed the Applied Epidemiology Certificate in May of 2005.

The Consortium currently offers three graduate-level certificate programs in Applied Epidemiology, Public Health Leadership, and Health Care Management through East Tennessee State University, The University of Tennessee Health Science Center, and the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Students are required to complete 15-18 graduate credit hours, depending on which certificate program students select, in addition to maintaining a minimum cumulative G.P.A. of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, while working full-time.

All courses are offered through modes of distance education and are taught by faculty members of the participating universities.



Spring 2006 graduates (left to right): Marilyn Barnes; Carla Coley, Stephen Crosier, Kevin Morris, Linda Charlene Jessee, Sharron McGuire, and Barbara Laymon. Back row: David Brumley.

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Fall 2006 Application Deadline: June 30, 2006

Tennessee Department of Health employees who are interested in enrolling in the Tennessee Public Health Workforce Development Consortium will need to complete the application process by **June 30, 2006.**

Students choose to enroll in one of three graduate level certificate programs: Applied Epidemiology, Public Health Leadership, or Health Care Management.

The Application Process:

1. Students must be an employee of the Tennessee Department of Health and be recommended or approved for participation by their supervisor;
2. Students must possess a bachelor's degree from an accredited university;
3. Students must complete a university application and receive full admission status as a non-degree student at one of the participating institutions: East Tennessee State University, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, or University of Tennessee Health Science Center (Memphis);
4. Students must submit to the university an official undergraduate transcript of each college or university attended;
5. Students must have a minimum undergraduate G.P.A. of 2.7 on a 4.0 scale. Some institutions may require higher G.P.A.'s;
6. Students must complete the TN Public Health Workforce Development application available on the Consortium's website at the following link under "How Do I Apply?":
<http://www.utmem.edu/TNConsortium/>
6. Students must also complete the Student Acknowledgement Form also available on the Consortium's website.

Students must possess a bachelor's degree from an accredited university, with a minimum G.P.A. of 2.7 on a 4.0 scale.

Two Additional Certificate Programs and the Online MPH Program

The Tennessee Public Health Workforce Development Consortium has added two additional certificates to its program. In addition to the Applied Epidemiology certificate program, students can now enroll in the Public Health Leadership or the Health Care Management Certificate programs.

The Public Health Leadership certificate is for individuals who are in mid-to-upper level administrative positions with the Department of Health. This certificate is a 15 credit hour program including the following courses: Overview of Public Health, Public Health Leadership, Public Health Policy & Law, Program Evaluation, and Strategic Planning/Culminating Experience.

The Health Care Management Certificate is an 18-hour interdisciplinary certificate program. Participants will take five core courses, including Human Resources Management, Health Care Accounting and Finance, and Health Care Organizations and Delivery. In addition to the core courses, students are required to select an elective as their sixth course in the certificate program.

The original Applied Epidemiology certificate program focuses on the application of basic and advanced epidemiological methods to public health problems. Courses include Introduction and Advanced Epidemiology, Biostatistics, Overview of Public Health, and Applied Statistical Software.

As an effort to foster continuing graduate education, the Consortium has partnered with East Tennessee State University to offer the Master of Public Health (MPH) degree online with concentrations in epidemiology and health services administration.

Students who complete the certificate program with a 3.0 G.P.A., and are approved for continued participation will be able to pursue the online masters program.

Details are still being developed at this time. As information becomes available, it will be distributed to eligible participants.

Student Highlights

- In April 2005, Dawn Craik, of Central Office, was promoted to one of three Epidemiologist positions in the HIV/AIDS/STD Section of Surveillance and Data Management.

Public Health Grand Rounds: Health Literacy

The Tennessee Public Health Workforce Development Consortium along with the Tennessee Department of Health hosted the Public Health Grand Rounds: Health Literacy on Tuesday, April 11, 2006. This conference was held by videoconference throughout the State's Regional and Metro Health Offices. The presenter for this event was Dr. Lorraine Wallace, Assistant Professor in the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Tennessee Graduate School of Medicine. Dr. Wallace received her B.S. degree from Rutgers University and her Ph.D. from The Ohio State University. Dr. Wallace is focusing her research inquiries on literacy related disparities and literacy related barriers to health programs, services, and care.

According to Wallace, "a large portion of American adults struggle with limited literacy skills, which affect their ability to fully function in the healthcare setting. Inadequate literacy has quantifiable effects on morbidity, mortality, and healthcare costs. Low literacy is negatively related to management of chronic disease including, diabetes mellitus, asthma, and hypertension. Further, patients with limited literacy have more difficulty understanding medication-related instructions and navigating the healthcare system."

The objective of the presentation was to enable participants to be able to describe the relationship between health literacy and health outcomes; list alternative strategies to deliver medical information, and identify evidence-based criteria for easy-to-read written patient education materials.

Grand Rounds are scheduled quarterly; please contact Aleshia Hall-Campbell (901) 448-3026 for additional information.

"Inadequate literacy has quantifiable effects on morbidity, mortality, and healthcare costs."

Graduation Keynote Speakers

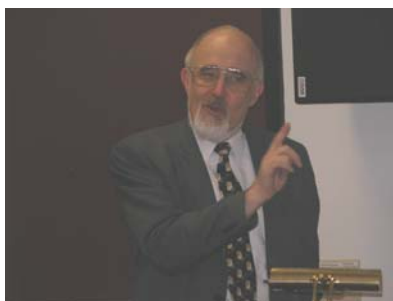


Marcia Brand, Ph.D.

Director, Office of Rural Health Policy

HRSA

May 2005



Bernard Goldstein, M.D.

Dean, University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Public Health

December 2005



Paul Halverson, Dr.P.H.

Director, Arkansas Department of Health

Professor & Chairman, Dept. of Health Policy and Management, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, College of Public Health

May 2006

Tennessee Public Health Workforce Development Consortium

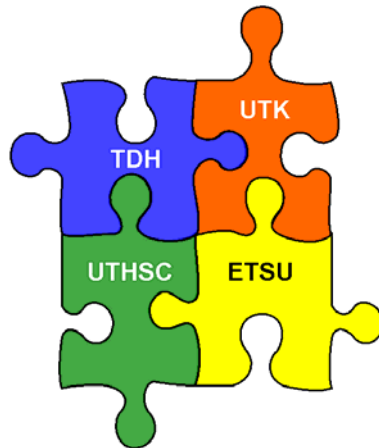
The Tennessee Public Health Workforce Development Consortium is a collaborative effort of the Tennessee Department of Health, East Tennessee State University, and the University of Tennessee to enhance the capabilities of the staff of the Tennessee Department of Health to meet current and future public health challenges. The Consortium strives to meet this goal by developing and sponsoring graduate level programs in critical areas of public health that are available to the staff of the Department of Health.

Why Was the Consortium Formed? The events that followed the tragedies of September 11, 2001, emphasized the limits of the nation's public health workforce to meet the challenges posed by newly emerging diseases as well as bioterrorism. The Department of Health recognized this need and initiated the development of statewide programs to provide professional staff with opportunities for advanced education.

How are Courses Taught? Courses primarily utilize distance education methods to allow students to participate without travel and with minimal disruption of their work routine. Courses rely heavily on web-based techniques supplemented by interactive audio and video conferencing. Direct meeting of students and faculty may also be planned periodically during the program.

How Do Students Enroll? Students enroll in the Consortium's program through any one of the three campuses included in the Consortium. This campus will be designated as the student's "home campus." Students will enroll in courses through this "home campus" and this campus will provide support services for the student.

What Does the Program Cost? Tuition and all fees for staff of the Department of Health who are approved to participate in the program are paid by the Department of Health.



Tennessee Public Health Workforce Development Consortium

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