UPHA ANNUAL MEETING: SAVE THE DATE AND SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT

The UPHA Annual Meeting will be held April 24-April 26, 2019 at the Ogden Eccles Conference Center. Abstract deadline: January 25th midnight. Visit www.upha.org/conference for details and submitting Abstracts.

UPHA BOARD MEMBERS & OTHERS PRESENTING AT APHA

Several board members of Utah Public Health Association and UDOH staff will be presenting at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting starting this weekend.

Join Brittney Okada from the Utah Department of Health Office of Health Disparities (OHD) for APHA 2018 Annual Meeting & Expo in San Diego where she will be presenting about OHD’s long-term effort to improve pregnancy outcomes among Utah’s Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders. Brittney’s presentation, titled "It Takes a Village: Giving Our Babies the Best Chance" is scheduled for session 5097.0, Improving Pregnancy Outcomes: Tailored Approaches for High-Risk Populations on Wednesday, November 14, 2018, at 10:30 a.m. For more information view the session online.

UPHA Board members, Sharon Talboys, Teresa Garrett, Paul Wightman, Anna Dillingham, Dustin Jones, and Shaheen Hossain will present preliminary results for the UPHA member survey. Join them at session 3072:” Historical and Contemporary Membership Trends of the Utah Public Health Association” on Monday, November 12th from 10:30-11:30. This will also be displayed at the Saturday, November 10th at the Council on Affiliates Meeting: Affiliate Best Practices Session.

Melissa Zito, from UDOH’s Office of AI/AN Health Affairs, will be reporting on her work with Utah’s tribal governments on Public Health Accreditation efforts. Please come to experience Melissa’s presentation on Monday, November 12, at 01:00 PM in Session 3232.0: “What Happens When Your Health Department Gets Accredited? The Impact of Sustained Support for Public Health Accreditation”. Melissa has worked on this effort for years, as one of UPHA’s Accreditation Grant Recipients from APHA’s Accreditation Initiative.

For general information about the APHA Annual Meeting or to find out about other sessions and presentations, visit the Annual Meeting homepage.

UPHA MEMBER SURVEY UPDATE

UPHA Constituent Survey Completed! There was a great response to the recent UPHA constituent survey - over 300 responses! Results will be shared with membership soon and will be presented at APHA in November. Thanks to all who participated. Your input was very helpful and is being carefully interpreted to inform the UPHA strategic plan.
UPHA’S COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER SECTION HONORS OUTSTANDING WORK

On Monday, October 29, UPHA’s Community Health Worker (CHW) Section gathered for a night of celebrating and honoring the contributions of CHWs and the important role they play promoting health in Utah’s communities. Interspersed throughout the evening was entertainment by singers and dancers from Mexico, Hawaii, and Tahiti. Edwin Espinel delivered an inspiring keynote address, sharing stories from his own experiences working with CHWs and highlighting the impact their work has on our reducing the burden on our healthcare system. One of the evening’s highlights was the recognition of the 2018 awardees for their outstanding work in the field. This year’s CHW award winners are:

- **Legacy Award:** Esperanza Arias
- **Rookie:** Monica & Josue Lopez
- **Rookie:** Cecilia Armanza
- **CHW All Star:** Oreta Tupola

The evening was capped off when the current section leadership team handed off the baton to new section leaders. Welcome to the new Section Chair, Tetea Woffinden, Co-chair, Simi Poteki, and Section Secretary, Maria Jose Nieto. UPHA offers it congratulations to the 2018 Award winners, the section’s new leaders, and to all our CHW section members that continue to serve Utah’s communities with such incredible dedication.

UPHA NUTRITION TALK WELL ATTENDED

The UPHA Nutrition Section held October quarterly nutrition talk with a great turnout.

We had a dietitian (Julie Opp, MS, RD, CD) from Harmons come and speak about cancer prevention and fighting foods. There were 22 participants.

The section is currently working on our next event with the Beef council for their annual luncheon.
CALL FOR APPLICANTS FOR NLAPH

Seeking applications from multi-sector teams across the United States for the 8th National Leadership Academy for the Public’s Health (NLAPH) cohort. Since 2012, NLAPH has brought together leaders from diverse sectors including health, housing, education, transportation, and law enforcement to build their own capacity in order to transform their communities, improve health, and advance equity. Who can apply? Multi-sector teams of four (4) from existing coalitions or working groups who are already working to solve a problem in their community are encouraged to apply. Each team is required to have one member from the public health department, and team members should include leaders who can contribute to advancing the group’s established goal.

Please see the NLAPH 2019 Program Flyer and NLAPH Program Page for additional details and information.

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY SUMMIT

The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) Cancer Summit on November 7th from 8:30am-11:00am. The event will take place on November 7 at the University of Utah Health Sciences Education Building from 8:30am-11:00am. More information is located here: https://www.fightcancer.org/events/utah-cancer-summit-disparities-access-care-and-public-policy
BOARD SPOTLIGHT: TURNER BITTON

1. *Where do you currently work/go to school?* I currently work at the YCMA of Northern Utah as the Associate Director of Development – Annual Fund. I am also in the process of growing a new nonprofit organization that will one day be my full-time job - the Utah Center for Civic Improvement (UCIV). UCIV is a new nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening the bonds between Utahans by promoting citizenship, democratic values, and civic institutions. Among our chief priorities is community-level change and improvement.

2. *Why did you choose to pursue public health as your profession?* I’m inspired by the ability to use the principles of public health to improve communities and strengthen our democracy. A healthy and engaged citizenry is the cornerstone of our democratic system and tradition. Public health holds the key to addressing some of the complex social and societal issues by empowering communities and people to engage as part of the solution. While my path in public health is different than a traditional path, I feel it is critical to incorporate public health principles and strategies throughout our communities in order to create a culture of health and wellness.

3. *What is your favorite vacation spot?* I don’t have a favorite vacation spot because I am still exploring the corners of the world I haven’t seen. The most important criteria for me in a vacation spot are the ability to feel like I am part of the place I’m traveling. I like to connect with locals, learn about the culture and history of the place, and be intellectually stimulated by the places I travel. To me travel is about developing skills to feel part of the broader human experience and learning about the people and places of the world.

4. *What time do you typically go to bed and get up in the morning?* I’m a night owl. It’s not uncommon for me to be up working until midnight or later. My most productive time is between ten and midnight. My ideal wakeup time is between eight thirty and nine – that is when my body is naturally timed to wake up.

5. *If money weren’t an issue right now, what would you be doing?* I would invest in nonprofit organizations that harness disruptive and cutting-edge methodologies to address issues. My most cherished roles are as a volunteer or board member for the incredible organizations working to make a difference. I would spend my time and money as I already do – investing in my community.

6. *What has been the most rewarding project you’ve worked on as a public health professional?* Among my proudest accomplishments is working on the policy of syringe exchange and subsequent implementation of the policy in my capacity as Board Chair of the Utah Harm Reduction Coalition. I am proud to have implemented a data-driven and evidence-informed policy that has resulted in thousands of Utahans reducing their risk for bloodborne illness.

7. *If you could eat only one food for the rest of your life, what would it be?* Easy. The salsa and enchiladas mix from Patricia’s Mexican Restaurant #2 on 24th Street in Ogden.

8. *What is the best thing you’ve done in your life?* I ran for Ogden City Council in 2013 at the age of 22. It was the absolute best time of my life and created a huge hunger in me for public service. I will never forget the people I met and things that I learned. I’ll never forget that experience and look forward to a future in public service.
9. *What do you do to relax?* I like to go home – to my family farm and enjoy the peace and quiet of the country. My family raises beef cattle in Western Weber County and our farm is a serene and wonderful place. I’ve always found it to be the ultimate place for me to recharge. I like to take my dogs and spend the day with my family and husband there.

10. *If you could give only one reason why someone should join UPHA, what would it be?* I would encourage anyone with interest in public health to join UPHA whether or not they feel that they are a public health professional. The work of public health touches so many aspects of our society that it is impossible to separate public health from the work of building a society. Public health strategies create a healthier society and hold the power to resolve some of the most complex issues we face as a community. Public health is everyone’s responsibility and we all play a role in promoting the health of our neighbors and loved ones.

**UPHA STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: TAYLOR HENNING HOJ, BS, MPH (c), CPH**

1. *Where do you currently go to school?*  
   Master of Public Health Program, Brigham Young University

2. *Why did you choose to pursue public health as your professional degree?* I started my university education with the intention of going to medical school and becoming a physician; however, this intention began to shift after I decided to pursue a minor in Scandinavian Studies in the College of Humanities. This perspective of the world and what it means to be human opened up my eyes to the complexities of health and the idea that health is determined by much more than the skill of a physician or access to medical care. Additional experiences both as an EMT and as an intern at Utah Valley Hospital further shaped this perspective and pushed me towards public health. I appreciated the macroscopic perspective of public health, the potential for wider impact, and the focus on underserved populations and eventually decided that public health was what I wanted in my career.

3. *What has been the most rewarding project you’ve worked on as a public health professional, if you have any?* This past summer, I was able to complete a field experience as part of my MPH degree working as a Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Consultant Intern with an NGO in Tanzania that is combatting stunting and undernutrition among young children. My work there involved designing a questionnaire and data collection plan for monitoring program success, developing a data quality check strategy, preparing a baseline survey summary report to be distributed to donor and government partners, and developing strategies to streamline communication of key messages to the CHW Supervisors. I have also enjoyed my research at BYU, which has focused on the potential of e-bikes as a means of encouraging individuals to live an active lifestyle.

4. *What is the best thing you’ve done in your life?* Married my wife. Cliché, I know, but it’s the truth!

5. *What is your plan for the future?* I’ve completed all my requirements for my MPH degree and will officially graduate in December 2018, so I’m in the midst of job searching right now. My plan is to work for a couple of years and then go on to pursue a PhD in Epidemiology or a related area in public health. After my PhD, I’m interested in working as an epidemiologist, M&E or similar position as a public health professional. After I’ve had my fun as a public health professional, I’d like to settle into an academic setting and conduct research and mentor students.

6. *If you could give only one reason why someone should join UPHA SA, what would it be?* Networking.
ANOTHER REMINDER

SAVE THE DATE!

2019
UTAH CONFERENCE
FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

April 25-26, 2019
Preconference sessions April 24

Ogden Eccles
Conference Center

Interested in sponsoring?
Email ttetz@utah.gov

Look for the Call for Abstracts in coming weeks!
UPHA.org