

THE FLORIDA PUBLIC HEALTH ADVOCATE

A publication of the Florida Public Health Association



FPHA
Florida Public Health Association

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK....



Greetings and Happy Spring! It sure feels like an early spring, and the legislature is wrapping up as I write this. Christopher Nuland, Esq., our FPFA lobbyist, has done a great job representing FPFA during the legislative session this year as we have navigated the issues at hand and strived to represent public health professionals (and Floridians) well.

Our Southwest Regional Conference is in April and it will be a wonderful networking and learning event – be sure to sign up at FPHA.org. Also, our Annual Education Conference is in July in Orlando – make plans now to attend. Even those around you who may not (yet) be FPFA members can request to attend. Be sure to help everyone be aware that one doesn't have to be a member of FPFA to go to the conference (but we'd love for them to join anyway!).

As we move closer to National Public Health Week (April 4-10), we are reminded that public health is EVERYWHERE! The theme is "Healthiest Nation 2030". (Go to NPHW.org for more info). We are encouraged to rally around a goal of making the U.S. the Healthiest Nation in One Generation — by 2030. The website includes tips for promoting your event to the media, and other components, in the form of a tool kit.

Although our life and work challenges can sometimes get us down, stay positive for your own sake and for the sake of coworkers and family around you. Be so happy that when others look at you, they become happy too! Smile – it's infectious! All the best to you – stay safe and healthy!

Shannon Hughes
FPFA President

Annual Educational Conference Agenda is Up! Join us July 26-29, 2016 at the Florida Hotel in Orlando: The agenda for the FPFA Annual Educational Conference is now available. Our sessions and tracks encompass a wide range of public health topics. This year, each registered attendee will receive a Florida Mall Savings Passport, and an Exhibitor Passport! Registration will open soon, along with more information about submitting an abstract for our exciting poster session! Stay tuned to www.fpha.org

Editor's Note:

This will be my last month as the Advocate newsletter editor. It has been an honor and privilege to serve in this role. I've learned a lot, personally and professionally, and I am so grateful to have been given this opportunity. Stay tuned to the FPFA web site for the latest news, and I look forward to seeing you in Orlando, at the Educational Conference!!

Sincerely, Rebecca

MARCH 2016

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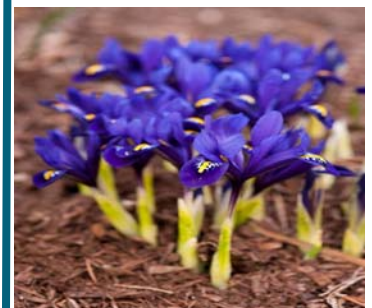
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Student Spotlight: Dwayne Mitchell

Dwayne was born and raised in Orlando, Florida. He graduated from Florida A & M University in 2007 with a BS in Molecular Biology. He then began teaching high school biology and integrated science, while concurrently working in specimen processing at Orlando Health. He continued on that path for three years before taking a position with the State of Florida as a food and lodging inspector for the Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR).

Dwayne was promoted to Plans Examiner after one year, and this is his current position. He is a Master of Public Health student at the University of West Florida, and he has a strong interest in chronic disease epidemiology, specifically cardiovascular disease and cancer.

Dwayne will be graduating with a MPH in August, 2016. He is an intern with the Florida Department of Health, Environmental Public Health Tracking Program, under the mentorship of Melissa Jordan. His internship consists of examining the relationship between cardiovascular disease rates and the density and proximity of fast food restaurants in populations. We look forward to seeing the results of this exciting internship. It is a pleasure to know Dwayne, and congratulations on your accomplishments!

**Positive Nature News**

The Efficacy of a Brief Nature Sound Intervention on Muscle Tension, Pulse Rate, and Self-Reported Stress: Nature Contact Micro-Break in an Office or Waiting Room.

Submitted by: Julie Williams Merten, PhD, MCHES, Assistant Professor & Internship Director, University of North Florida Brooks College of Health

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26744039>

Faces of HIV Exhibit: Gulf Coast State College in Panama City, Florida on March 3, 2016.

Within a two day period, over 500 people toured and visited this important and impactful exhibit. The Faces of HIV project tells the stories of Florida residents living with HIV and AIDS through captivating portraits, insightful interviews and poignant journal writing. Participants of the project address how they became infected with HIV and first dealt with their diagnoses, as well as their personal relationships, effects of HIV on the body and more. The mobile art exhibit gives visitors an up close and personal glimpse into the lives of those living with HIV in hopes of promoting awareness and understanding about the disease. Find out more about Stop the Spread of HIV at: <http://www.stophthespread.com>.



Top left: Miranda Fenot, Health Finance Auditor with the HIV/AIDS Division of Bay County and Rick Vitale, HIV/AIDS Bay County Program Coordinator. Sandon Speedling, Assistant County Health Department Director is in the middle.

Bottom right: Leigh Miles, Jessica Willingham, and Jonathan Cummings-Freedom 180 staff with Sandon Speedling.



FLORIDA PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION 2016 ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE

The Florida Hotel

July 26-29, 2016

Orlando, Florida, Florida Hotel

Call for Posters

FPHA Members, Public Health Students and Faculty, and Public Health Organizations are invited to submit proposals for posters reporting public health research or innovative programs or policies. We are seeking proposals for posters representing a broad variety of public health issues, disciplines, and programs. The proposals will be reviewed using the following general criteria:

Importance of the public health issue/topic

Creativity of approach

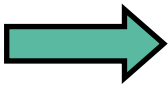
Innovative use of partnerships

Clarity/logic/organization of the proposal

Poster proposals must be submitted electronically on the application form at www.fpha.org by 5 PM. Wednesday, June 1, 2016 to floridapha@bellsouth.net. Proposals should follow the outline on the proposal form. If you have questions about developing or submitting your proposal, please contact Dr. Mary Martinasek, mmarti-nasek@ut.edu or Sandra Magyar, floridapha@bellsouth.net – 904-657-2009. You will be notified shortly after the closing date as to whether your poster was selected. All poster presenters must register for the meeting and provide their own easels.

Posters will be displayed on easels beginning early Wednesday morning, July 27, 2016 and all day Thursday, July 28, 2016, during the meeting. Presenters must remove their posters at the end of the meeting on August 21. Any left after the meeting will be discarded. The location where the posters will be presented will be opened at 7 AM on July 27 to allow the posters to be set up. The set up must be completed by 7:30 AM.

For more information about the Florida Public Health Association and the Annual Conference, please visit: <http://fpha.org>



FPHA Regional Conference: Meeting Public Health Needs & Addressing Health Equity Priorities of South Florida-April 27, 2016

Join us for a Joint Regional Public Health Conference and engage in learning and networking opportunities with public health professionals. Sponsored by FPFA, Robert Stempel College of Public Health & Social Work, Stempel Public Health Association @ FIU, Nova Southeastern University and Florida Department of Health in Broward, Miami-Dade and Palm Beach Counties. Agenda can be found at www.fpha.org

Longtime Bay County Health Department Administrator Selected as Sapphire Awards Finalist-Congratulations!!



Douglas Kent of the Florida Department of Health in Bay County has been selected as a 2016 Sapphire Awards finalist for his work toward “100 percent access, 0 percent disparities” in health care over a 40-year career. He is among six individual finalists selected statewide. The awards, presented by the Florida Blue Foundation with grants totaling \$350,000, honor outstanding work by individuals, programs and nonprofit organizations in community health care, or health care-related fields, distinguished by leadership, innovation and achievements in community health. The winners in each category will be announced at the conclusion of the two-day Sapphire Symposium, titled “Health Transformation: The Power of Engagement,” that takes place April 20-21 at Rosen Shingle Creek in Orlando and features community health experts from around the state and country.

Kent's achievements during his 40 years of public health service encompass many programs across two Florida counties. He is recognized for his experience, success, vision and diligence along with his ability to bring community leaders and partnerships together to join his vision and mission in improving public health issues. His leadership and collaborative efforts accomplished major projects, acquired funding sources, fulfilled facility needs and developed impactful public health programs.

A total of 13 finalists across the three categories were selected from among 112 nominees. An independent panel of experts with state and national expertise in community health best practices will select the winner in each category.

Since 2005, Florida Blue Foundation has presented 60 Sapphire Awards, totaling more than \$3.4 million in grants, to nine individuals and 51 programs and organizations from across Florida.

Doug Kent at the recent Faces of HIV event held in Bay County on March 3,,

“This group of finalists truly represents the outstanding individuals, programs and nonprofit organizations that stood out as the best in their categories,” said Susan Towler, Florida Blue Foundation vice president. “The Foundation is proud to recognize them as finalists for the excellent work they are doing to make Florida a healthier state.”

For more information and to register for the 2016 Sapphire Symposium and Awards, visit www.floridabluefoundation.com.

Smile if you like the FPFA!

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FPFA Annual Educational Conference
July 26-29, 2016
Orlando, Florida at the Florida Hotel

