

MPH Program Update – September 2011

Welcome to the new and returning students! We begin our ninth academic year at Kansas State University, and for Fall 2011, we had 22 new admissions to our MPH degree program and two to our graduate certificate program. There are currently a total of 92 students enrolled in classes this semester (87 MPH students and five graduate certificate students). This compares to 26 total students in Fall 2008, 38 students in Fall 2009, and 67 in Fall 2010.

Congratulations to our new Graduates! In August, the university conferred the MPH Degree to six more individuals: Ms. Gina Besenyi, Ms. Connie Ellis, Ms. Shweta Gopalakrishnan, Ms. Kaarin Lund, Dr. Christopher Marion, and Mr. Scott Saathoff. This brings our total number of K-State MPH Graduates to 50.

MPH Faculty: We currently have 55 MPH faculty at K-State, with 34 serving as major professors (3 in the Agriculture, 6 in Arts and Sciences, 5 in Human Ecology, and 20 in Veterinary Medicine).

MPH Students: In addition to the 92 students enrolled this semester, there are 10 others (7 MPH and 3 Certificate students) who are still making progress in their educational programs. That brings our total of program students to 102.

MPH Governance Changes: This summer, the Deans and Department Heads approved a new governance structure, to meet accreditation criteria, and we will be transitioning during the fall semester. There will now be an MPH Executive Council, an MPH Faculty Advisory Council, an MPH External Advisory Council, and an MPH Student Council. The MPH Executive Council will be composed of the Department Heads of Animal Sciences/Industry, Clinical Sciences, Diagnostic Medicine/Pathobiology, Hospitality Management/Dietetics, Human Nutrition, Kinesiology, and Statistics; the five supporting deans will be ex-officio members of the council. The Faculty Advisory Council members have not yet been finalized, but the Coordinating Committee will continue to be active this semester. Members of the Coordinating Committee are: Dan Fung and Deanna Retzlaff (Food Safety/Biosecurity), Justin Kastner and Bob Larson (Infectious Diseases/Zoonoses), Tanda Kidd and Sandy Procter (Public Health Nutrition), Katie Heinrich and Mary McElroy (Public Health Physical Activity), Kimathi Choma and Beth Montelone (One Health Kansas and Pathways to Public Health) and Eric Kelly (MPH Student representative). We will be working with faculty, students and other public health stakeholders to build the MPH External Advisory and MPH Student Councils.

Accreditation Status: After the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) Consultant's visit in March 2011, she validated several deficiencies in the program, the most major being adequate resourcing. The faculty and staff have made multiple corrections, but we have not yet identified adequate resourcing for long-term sustainability of the program. We have extended our self-study period, in coordination with CEPH, and we will continue working with all stakeholders toward accreditation.

Assistance: Please call (785-532-2042), email (mphealth@ksu.edu), or visit us during our office hours (311 Trotter Hall), if you want or need assistance in any matters. It is a pleasure to work with all of you. Thanks for all the hard work!