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## Inspiration + Motivation

“Wake up! Wake up! C’mon,  
first day of school!”

“Education is the key to  
unlocking the world, a  
passport to freedom”

“Knowledge is power, and  
school is where you start to  
gain your superpowers”

“The beautiful thing about  
learning is that no one can  
take it away from you”

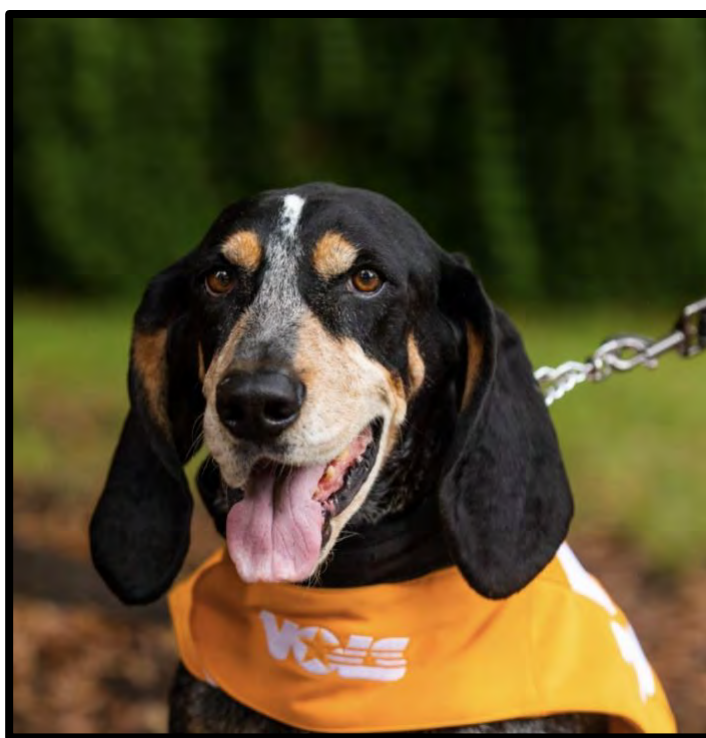
“The best is yet to come”

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# Public Health Memos

Fall 2024, Volume I



## Welcome Vols!

Whether this is your first or fourth  
semester in the Department of Public  
Health, we are so excited to have you!

This semester has A LOT instore!  
Be sure to follow along with the monthly  
Memos to ensure you don't miss out on  
any of the upcoming events taking place  
in the department! 😊

# Fall Professional Development Events!

The graphic features a light blue background with a white grid pattern. At the top, the title 'Professional Development Events' is written in a large, bold, dark blue font. Below it, a blue banner contains the text 'Fall 2024' in white. Three event cards are arranged vertically, each with a circular date indicator on the left and a dark blue content box on the right. The first card is for September 13th, the second for September 20th, and the third for October 18th. Each card includes the event title, a brief description, and the presenter's name. A 'REGISTER HERE' link is provided at the bottom left, and a note about Zoom registration is at the bottom right.

## Professional Development Events

### Fall 2024

**13 SEP** **Tennessee Department of Health** **12-1 PM EST**  
Learn about internship and career opportunities at TDH and what skills and experience will best prepare you for work at a state health department.  
**Presenter:** Casie Higginbotham, AHD Coordinator

**20 SEP** **Career Deep Dive: Federal Contracting** **12-1 PM EST**  
Learn about working as a federal contractor with a MPH and hear tips and suggestions for pursuing careers as contractors supporting the federal government.  
**Presenter:** Greg Nichols, Health Studies Operations Manager

**18 OCT** **LinkedIn Workshop** **12-1 PM EST**  
Learn about using LinkedIn effectively for career development and job searching in public health and health services administration.  
**Presenter:** Ashley Parks, Assistant Professor of Practice

**[REGISTER HERE](#)**

Events are on Zoom and open to all BSPH, MPH and PhD students

To register for a fall development event, use the link below:  
<https://forms.gle/CpHhX1Xp7aRywxcaA>

# CHES Study Group!

Dr. Perion will be offering a CHES study group information session on **Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup> from 12:00-1:00pm** for those interested in taking the CHES exam!

What is CHES you ask? Great question!

CHES stands for Certified Health Education Specialist.

This certification, given by the National Commission of Health Education Credentialing, establishes an individual's knowledge and skills and makes them more competitive on the job market!

This study group is open to all students!

For more information and the link to the study group, contact Dr. Perion at [Jperion@utk.edu](mailto:Jperion@utk.edu)

For more information on the CHES exam and certification, go to <https://www.nchec.org/ches>



# NCHEC

National Commission  
for Health Education Credentialing

*Credentialing Excellence in Health Education*

# Tennessee Public Health Association!

Wanting to learn more about public health opportunities in Tennessee?

Join us at the Tennessee Public Health Association (TPHA) Annual Conference in Murfreesboro, Tennessee!  
TPHA begins October 9<sup>th</sup> and runs through October 11<sup>th</sup>

For more information on TPHA, conference abstract submission dates, TPHA scholarships, and public health opportunities in Tennessee, visit  
<https://www.tnpublichealth.org>



# What Are New Vols Excited For?

Grant  
Writing

Meeting new  
people!

Epidemiology!

Everything!

To learn about  
policy!

Research  
Methods!

To learn about  
infectious  
diseases!

Statistics!

To learn about  
community engagement!

# APEX Information Sessions!



## Applied Practice Experience Information Sessions

**Fall 2024**



### On-Campus MPH Students

**Wednesday,  
September 4th 4-5  
PM EST**

<https://tennessee.zoom.us/j/85761665313>

### Distance Education MPH Students

**Tuesday, September 3rd  
7-8 PM EST**

<https://tennessee.zoom.us/j/82879928920>

**Wednesday, September  
11th 6-7 PM EST**

<https://tennessee.zoom.us/j/88457928826>

# Bachelor of Science in Public Health Information Hub

## UTK Public Health Majors Information Hub

### **Calling all BSPH students!**

There will be a BSPH intern information session (PUBH 489) on September 25, 2024 from 3:00-4:00pm on Zoom!

The Zoom link can be found on the Canvas Catalog site.

Not enrolled in the Catalog Site? Here's how!

- 1) Visit the Undergraduate Public Health Majors course listing in UT Canvas Catalog
- 2) Select "Enroll Now"
- 3) Log in with your NetID and password

For course access, visit UT Canvas Catalog, or bookmark the Canvas course after enrolling. Lastly, log in with your NetID and password!

# Faculty Spotlight!

## Ashley Downs



Hi everyone! I'm so excited to have joined the department as a faculty lecturer and Tennessee Department of Health (TDH) Workforce Development Liaison. I am currently teaching two courses in the undergraduate public health program: PUBH 202, introductory epidemiology, and PUBH 489, the practice experience course. Teaching is a passion of mine, and I feel lucky to work with students in my role here at UTK. In addition to the two classes I teach, I also work for TDH aiding in workforce development projects, programs, and initiatives, with the goal of bolstering the public health workforce here in Tennessee. One of TDH's projects I am contributing to is our trauma-informed workforce initiative to promote the retention of the skilled public health professionals working at TDH.

Before moving to Tennessee, I spent most of my life in Pennsylvania and received my MPH from the University of Pennsylvania. Prior to joining UTK, I worked in research for Children's Hospital of Philadelphia's (CHOP) Center for Injury Research and Prevention. My work there centered on traffic safety, specifically establishing the scientific foundation related to neurodivergence (Autism and ADHD) and driving. One of my favorite experiences was getting to share my team's preliminary data from our naturalistic driving study with Autistic teens and young adults at the Society for Advancement of Violence and Injury Research national conference. Traffic safety remains one of my top public health interests! My other interests include weight-inclusive frameworks in healthcare, anti-fat bias, LGBTQIA+ health, and harm reduction. If you share overlapping interests, do not hesitate to reach out!



## Faculty Being Fabulous!

Congrats to Dr. Laurie L. Meschke who will be a co-PI on *Strengthening Behavioral Health in Underserved Communities with Science-Driven Socially Informed Smart and Connected Healthcare Delivery Tools*, a project funded by the National Science Foundation. The interdisciplinary research team, lead by Dr. Zhenbo Wang of Mechanical, Aerospace, and Biomedical Engineering, will collaborate to use drones to deliver medical supplies to rural Appalachia. Laurie will be responsible for evaluating community engagement, usability of the phone app, and the impact on local behavioral health. The 4-year project will start in January 2025.

Way to go Dr. Meschke and team!



# Student Spotlight!



## **Sam Ellis**

Sam is a 2024 graduate of the BSPH program and a current research assistant in the Holowatyj Lab at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. In addition to research, Sam enjoys running, biking and camping. While his future goals are not set in stone, Sam hopes to combine his interest in research with his interest in patient care, potentially as a pediatric oncology nurse practitioner!  
Way to go, Sam!

## **Rhea Joshi**

Rhea conducted her summer internship at Cleveland Clinic where she had the opportunity to conduct a kitchen/retail space and equipment assessment in eight regional hospitals, conduct a network assessment in eleven regional hospitals, shadow dietitians and diet techs, and participate in community service opportunities!  
Way to go, Rhea!

