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## Inspiration + Motivation

“December is the time for  
remembering the past and  
reaching towards the future”  
-Ralph Waldo Emerson

“December, being the last  
month of the year, cannot help  
but make us think of what is to  
come”  
-Fennel Hudson

“December has the clarity, the  
simplicity, and the silence you  
need for the best fresh start of  
your life”  
-Vivian Swift

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# Public Health Memos

Fall 2023, Volume III



## Happy DEcember!

That's right!

This issue highlights our awesome and  
amazing DE students and their recent  
accomplishments!

We are so excited share what some of  
them have been up to this semester!

# Community Pantry!

## Reminder! The Department of Public Health is Home to a Community Pantry!

The Community Pantry, located in **HPER 383**, is a need based, take what you need, leave what you can pantry. All UTK Public Health students, staff, and faculty can utilize this FREE department resource!

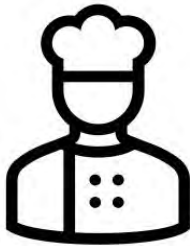
**The pantry is open Monday-Friday**

**8:00am-5:00pm**

(Excluding holidays and scheduled university closings)

Currently, the following items available for taking or giving:

- Non-perishable food and beverage items
  - Personal hygiene products
  - Cleaning supplies
  - Pet food and treats



# Big Orange Pantry!

Available to all current students, faculty, and staff, the Big Orange Pantry provides a variety of non-perishable and fresh foods, hygiene products, and other essential items supporting basic needs.

**The Big Orange Pantry is co-located with Smokey's Closet in the Center for Basic Needs, Student Union Room 376C**



# Get Involved with DEI!

Join the UTK Department of  
Public Health's

## DIVERSITY, EQUITY, + INCLUSION COMMITTEE

Student Co-chair Jordan Shipley  
jshiple4@evols.utk.edu  
Faculty Co-chair Laurie Meschke  
lmeschke@utk.edu



Biweekly VIRTUAL meetings - email for Zoom link



# DEI Fall 2022 Climate Survey Results

In Fall 2022, our department's DEI Committee performed a climate survey of students, faculty, and staff to assess department members' experiences with diversity here in DPH. The survey asked respondents to rank their interactions both with students and with faculty and staff on a scale of 1-5 on several measures, including friendliness, diversity, respect, LGBTQ+ friendliness, and safety. Respondents were also asked to identify whether they were members of a marginalized community. These data were analyzed by Dr. Laurie Meschke to assess the survey results, and the results for graduate student respondents are presented in this article.

There were significant disparities in rankings between marginalized and non-marginalized student respondents. Marginalized students ranked their interactions with other students much lower than non-marginalized students on diversity, collegiality, and non-sexism. They ranked interactions with faculty and staff lower in diversity, non-sexism, collaboration, honesty, and inclusivity.

Both marginalized and non-marginalized student respondents ranked their interactions with other students positively regarding respect, LGBTQ+ friendliness, honesty, and safety. The rankings for faculty interaction were equally positive regarding respect, collegiality, LGBTQ+ support, transparency, and communication.

These results are deeply valuable to the DEI Committee's work to promote diversity and inclusion within the Department of Public Health. Some of these results were very positive and encouraging, but others demonstrate room for improvement. We are excited to use these results to continue to support all our members as we work toward the common goal of promoting public health.

# PHSA Game Night!



Public Health Student Association's

## Zoom Game Night

*Sponsored by DEI*



**Who:** PUBH Graduate Students, Faculty, and Staff

**When:** Thursday, December 7th at 6:00pm

**Where:** [tiny.utk.edu/PHgamenight](https://tiny.utk.edu/PHgamenight)

### ZOOM LINK



Join your colleagues for some community and fun to celebrate the end of the semester with The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee and PHSA!



### RSVP



# CHES Official!



# Congrats!

**TO THE FOLLOWING  
STUDENTS FOR PASSING THE  
CHES EXAM THIS SEMESTER!**



**LINDSEY ALLISON  
AMANDA ANDREWS  
MARIAH HORTON  
JENNIFER THORNTON**

# CHES Study Session!

Speaking of the CHES exam...

Dr. Perion will be offering a CHES study group beginning January 2024 for students interested in taking the April 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 on the study group, contact Dr. Perion  
[Jperion@utk.edu](mailto:Jperion@utk.edu)

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



# NCHEEC

National Commission  
for Health Education Credentialing

*Credentialing Excellence in Health Education*



# Student Spotlight!

## Mariah Horton



Mariah Horton, one of our DE MPH students, was recently awarded the opportunity to work with the Tennessee Department of Health's Office of Strategic Initiatives as a Public Health Executive Fellow. The Office of Strategic Initiatives guides the department's strategic planning process and supports Tennessee's County Health Councils through building partnerships and creating innovative solutions to current public health issues. They achieve this through process facilitation, technical assistance, policy expertise, and relationship-building. The fellowship is a full time one year program with the potential of a second year. In this role, Mariah supports the Office of Strategic Initiatives staff in various capacities as well as has spearheaded her own projects based on public health interests. Mariah states that the fellowship has been an amazing opportunity for networking as well as learning more about the many opportunities available within the Tennessee Department of Health.

Congrats, Mariah!



# Student Spotlight!

Sara Mann



When not working towards her MPH, Sara Mann, one of our DE students and an aspiring full-time grant writer, volunteers at the Women's Hope Center in South Carolina. Through this experience, Sara was provided the opportunity to write and receive a grant of up to \$40,000! With this grant, the Women's Hope Center will be able to hire additional staff, offer ultrasounds, and continue meeting the needs of women and children in their community.

Congrats, Sarah!

**Congrats, Fall Grads!**



*Happy*  
**GRADUATION**

May you always have new  
opportunities come your way