President-Elect Candidate
Lisa M, Carlson, MPH, MCHES
Executive Administrator, Research Programs and Operations
Emory University School of Medicine

Education
BA, Yale University
MPH, Emory University

Biography

Following the wise advice of mentors, I joined APHA and the Georgia affiliate (GPHA) 25 years ago. I’ve since attended every annual meeting but one and have served in leadership positions for both associations.

I was honored to be elected GPHA’s youngest president, and simultaneously chaired APHA’s Local Host Planning Committee. Across APHA, I chaired the PHEHP section, and the ISC, where I helped obtain voting rights for ISC, CoA, and Student Assembly, and linked ISC to the now joint CoA/ISC Candidates’ Forum. I served five years on the Executive Board and was elected as Chair during my third year. I have served on APHA-wide task forces and committees, including the Task Force on Joint Membership and the Improvement Workgroup. My service to APHA has provided me with a broad understanding of the Governing Council’s values and range of perspectives, having sat on three sides of the hall – for PHEHP, as Georgia ARGC, and with the Executive Board – for a total of 10 years. I have been honored by PHEHP with a practitioner’s award and by GPHA with Lifetime Honorary Membership.

Over the last 25 years, I have worked in public health and medicine at the intersection of health sciences, research administration and practice. Throughout, APHA has been my touchstone; though few of those years have been in traditional public health settings, all have drawn upon my passion for connecting sound science to effective administration.

Working at a voluntary health agency taught me how to navigate volunteer and staff partnership and communication. Then, over 16 years in senior leadership at Emory University, I facilitated annual funding growth in transplant research from $8.1M to $29M and launched the largest sponsored award ever received at Emory ($78M), leading the establishment (20 months ahead of schedule) of six international childhood mortality surveillance sites. Teaching has taught me to be a patient listener and mentor. Today, I build programs and solve problems that impact research across the School of Medicine missions. Every professional role I’ve held has been newly created. Together, they equipped me with flexibility, comfort with change, and a good sense of humor.
I truly learned how to be a leader from the APHA family and would be honored to give back through service as president-elect.

Candidate Statement

I am grateful to the CoA, my primary section PHEHP, and my affiliate (GPHA) for this nomination. I am committed to APHA for many reasons – the most important is that APHA is the voice for science-based public health. As APHA leaders, we are called to better APHA in order to advance our shared vision of the healthiest nation.

Over the 25 years I’ve been active in APHA and GPHA, I’ve appreciated our diversity, richness, and – yes – complexity. We are a big tent, with a lot of voices. Yet we maintain a strong, shared vision of the power of public health. We must strengthen our collective voice. Our sound science base gives APHA its credibility as we advocate to policy makers and to (and for) the public.

Advocacy is also about building relationships; we need to strengthen and grow our public health family to expand our influence. I have learned how to tell the public health story as I have gained skills in collaboration among partners, the application of science, and stewardship of resources. APHA must work externally – defining public health broadly, protecting resources, engaging partners, and shaping the debate locally and nationally. We must also work better internally – accessing member expertise, creating synergy among all components, examining new models, and making carefully considered choices about what we will and will not do. We must also strengthen the role of affiliates, since regardless of where we practice - we all live locally.

Across components, we have more commonalities than differences, facing the same challenges even though in different settings: retaining members, securing finances, engaging students, and fighting for evidence-based policy. The APHA president has a unique opportunity to listen to APHA’s many voices and work to unify them, strengthening APHA’s impact on the public’s health. I humbly ask for your support.
President-Elect Candidate
Lynn Ann (Bethel) Short, MPH, RDH
Faculty, School of Community Health Sciences
Master’s in Public Health Degree Program
University of Nevada, Reno

Education
AS, Cape Cod Community College
BS, Old Dominion University
MPH, Boston University

Biography

For 35 years Lynn Ann (Bethel) Short has worked in health and human services, and for 25 years in public health as a clinician, administrator and educator. For almost a decade, she worked in a leadership role as the Massachusetts State Dental Director, having statewide responsibilities with high-risk populations including the low income, developmentally disabled, minorities and seniors as well as collaborating with local, state and national organizations, agencies and institutions. She also helped create state policies expanding access to health care for all Massachusetts residents.

For the past 18 years Lynn has worked in higher-education teaching courses in public health, research, policy and global healthcare and is a full-time faculty member at the University of Nevada, Reno, School of Community Health Sciences. Lynn has expertise in promoting community-based prevention programs for rural/urban settings and in 2017, was active in a campaign to change Nevada law to fluoridate Washoe County. Lynn has been involved in workforce development on both coasts and has spoken nationally/internationally on the dental hygiene workforce.

American Public Health Association: A member since 2001, Lynn began her service to APHA first, as an Oral Health Section Councilor and then as a member of the Action Board, becoming chair in 2011, and co-chair of the Joint Policy Committee. After a one-year term as an ex officio member on the Executive Board, Lynn was elected to serve a four-year term. During that time she led the Committee on Social Responsibility and completed her service as chair of the Executive Board in 2016. In 2017, she was appointed to serve on APHA’s Awards Committee.

State and National Leadership: In addition, to being a member of the Nevada Public Health Association and working to establish Nevada’s oral health coalition, Lynn is a former member of the Massachusetts and both California Public Health Associations. She is the only dental hygienist on the World Federation of Public Health Associations’ Oral Health Working Group. She has held leadership roles on coalitions and professional organizations including past president of the Massachusetts Dental Hygienists’ Association and volunteer coordinator for...
Massachusetts Special Olympics Special Smiles. Lynn is President of the May Arboretum Society, a multi-million dollar non-profit supporting the Wilbur D. May Arboretum & Botanical Garden (Reno, Nevada).

Candidate Statement

While public health is about knowledge, science, and the passion to improve the health of communities near and far, we also need to be creative and contemporary - addressing the challenges facing us in the 21st century with unlikely partnerships, unheard of in the past. When a billionaire investor, banking titan, and an e-commerce giant band together to make a change in the way healthcare is delivered in our country, it should be a wake-up-call that we must do things differently in order to have a meaningful role at the health table.

Having served in many APHA leadership roles, most recently as Chair of the Executive Board, I have seen firsthand the impact that our members, Sections, Affiliates, Caucuses, and SPIGs have through their action-oriented policies and initiatives. These efforts must be strengthened so APHA becomes even more relevant and influential. Serving as APHA president-elect and then president, I will work to assure that APHA utilizes its scientific, professional, and political expertise to:

- Strengthen, expand and leverage resources to promote sound policy and effective actions to respond to the public health needs of ALL Americans.
- Promote out-of-the-box partnerships to spread the message that focusing on prevention and a return-on-investment is essential for the sustainability and growth of current and future public health programs and policies.
- Utilize diverse, effective communication strategies and technology to strengthen the Association’s impact on members, stakeholders, and our country’s decision-makers.
- Develop initiatives to inspire our members, attract new members and students – both traditional and online as well as from diverse backgrounds to ensure the long-term effectiveness and sustainability of this Association and the public health profession.

I look forward to your support and involvement to help make APHA even stronger and a more influential catalyst, resource, and leader for a healthier nation.
Executive Board Member Candidate
Martha Dewey Bergren, DNS, RN, NCSN, PHNA-BC, FNASN, FASHA, FAAN
Associate Department Head, Health Systems Science
University of Illinois at Chicago, College of Nursing

Education
BS, Pennsylvania State University
MS, University of Buffalo, SUNY
DSN, University of Buffalo, SUNY

Biography
Dr. Bergren’s career has spanned nine states, from urban inner city acute care to rural public health and school health, and ultimately to the university setting, promoting healthy communities and nurturing the next generation of health professionals. Through service to nursing and inter-professional associations and the American Public Health Association, she has collaborated to create leaders, improve community data, and establish evidence for practice. Active in leadership positions in the School Health Education and Services section since 2005, she progressively increased her involvement and service until ultimately serving as Chair of the Intersectional Council for the American Public Health Association in 2015-2016 and as an Ex-Officio member of the APHA Executive Board of Directors and Strategic Planning Committee.

She is a member of the Illinois Association of Public Health and the Public Health Nursing and Health Informatics Information Technology sections. She is nationally certified in school nursing and advanced population health nursing, and her areas of expertise include leadership, population health, nurse sensitive outcome indicators, and informatics. From 2011-2016, she was Lead Faculty in the Rutgers University Johnson & Johnson School Health Leadership Program that prepares school nurses and community partners to bring about positive systems change for schools and their communities. She is currently the Director of Advanced Population Health, Health Systems Leadership and Informatics Doctor of Nursing Practice programs at the University of Illinois-Chicago College of Nursing. Her contributions over the last decade are devoted to creating uniform structure, process and outcome measures for school health and a national standardized school nurse dataset. Toward that end, she served on the National Quality Forum Child Health Outcomes Steering Committee and currently on the Pediatric Measures Steering Committee.

She is a fellow in the American Academy of Nursing, the National Association of School Nurses and the American School Health Association. Dr. Bergren teaches health promotion behavior interventions and evidence based practice to doctoral nursing students and develops, measures and disseminates the evidence that healthy communities and healthy schools are a cost effective and prudent investment in our nation's health.
Candidate Statement

As a lifelong champion of healthy communities and population health, I have the experience and skills to make a meaningful contribution to the American Public Health Association Executive Board of Directors. I am committed to maintaining APHA’s leadership as the primary advocacy association for public health and as the authority on the science and delivery of public health practice and policy. To that end, APHA’s viability must be assured through diligent financial forecasting and sound fiscal policies. The strength of APHA is in its collective voice across specialties, special interests, and approaches to science and to health. As a member of the 2015-2016 APHA Strategic Planning Committee, I am committed to goal of the Healthiest Nation in One Generation. To achieve that goal, I endorse APHA’s priority of mentoring students and the next generation of public health professionals to be effective change leaders and to assure their voice is heard in the policy arena.

All professional associations are challenged to maintain and increase members by being relevant and delivering a return on investment for the membership dues dollar. It is essential to engage with the newest members, long-term loyal members, potential members and friends of public health. Programs and educational offerings are important, but partnerships and engagement across affiliates, sections, SPIGS and caucuses are essential to keeping APHA relevant and strong. I will prioritize support and promotion of services and engagement with members.

My life’s work is devoted to providing the evidence that public health is the most cost effective and prudent investment the health of all citizens and future citizens. I will continue this work through APHA, the broader healthcare community, the academic community, and to all stakeholders and policymakers who care about our nation’s health.
Executive Board Member Candidate
Marc Hiller, DrPH, MPH
Associate Professor, Department of Health Management and Policy
College of Health and Human Services
University of New Hampshire

Education
BS, University of Pittsburgh
MPH, University of Pittsburgh
DrPH, University of Pittsburgh

Biography

Dr. Hiller received his MPH and DrPH from the U of Pittsburgh Grad School of Public Health (GSPH). He is a professor of health management and policy (public health) at the U of New Hampshire (UNH) teaching in public health, health ethics and law, and health policy since 1979. He received the UNH Excellence in Public Service Award and the Margaret F. Gloninger Award for community service from GSPH.

Hiller completed an NEH Fellowship in Ethics and Public Policy in Health Care (U of Virginia), studied at the Hastings Center, and served as visiting professor in Preventive Medicine (U of Wisconsin-Madison Medical School). He served as a Visiting Scholar at CDC’s Office on Smoking and Health.

He has authored two books and many scholarly publications and delivered countless professional presentations. His interests have focused on ethical issues involving public health research, policy, and practice.

Hiller helped found the New Hampshire Public Health Association, served as a two-term president, and long-standing board member, including the direction of its statewide Turning Point Initiative. He has received its Presidential Service Award.

Hiller’s national APHA involvement and leadership began as a Gerontological Health and what was the Population and Family Planning section member. He helped found and chaired its Ethics SPIG that recently became a Section. Currently, he’s among its national leadership, on its Policy Committee, and is helping to revise the Public Health Code of Ethics. Additionally, he is in the ATOD Section.

Hiller served on APHA’s Joint Policy Committee, Council on Affiliates (past-chair and NH-ARGC member); Executive Board (ex-officio), WK Kellogg Grant Advisory Committee, Action Board, Committee on Social Responsibility, and Governing Council. He received APHA’s Exceptional
Leadership and Service Award, multiple Certificates of Appreciation for Outstanding Service, Affiliate Capacity Building Initiative Advisory Committee Award, and 40+ Year Member Recognition.

Outside APHA, Hiller co-chaired the Ethics Committee of the Society for Public Health Education and served on the Coalition of National Health Education Organizations Ethics Task Force drafting the National Code of Ethics for Health Education Professionals. Hiller received the New England Regional Director’s Award for Dedicated Service to Public Health from the National Association of Local Boards of Health. He’s served on local health boards, hospital ethics committees, IRBs, and chaired a city’s ethics board.

Candidate Statement

Bringing 40+ years of leadership and active involvement in APHA, its components and affiliates, I am proud to be an Executive Board nominee. If elected, I will work tirelessly toward advancing the Association’s articulated vision, mission, and goals. My past APHA-related, academic, and community service experiences coupled with my administrative, policy, and ethics-related decision-making skills will contribute valuable assets. Among the issues I think that the Executive Board needs to address are:

Membership and Development. Fostering an actively engaged, diverse membership is essential to APHA’s long-term vitality and sustainability. We must increase and expand our membership... developing innovative, targeted outreach efforts, strengthening APHA’s meaningfulness and value to members while enhancing its visibility and attractiveness to non-members (particularly former member and students). Amid the aging public health workforce, attracting and retaining new and young public health professionals is vital. Possible strategies include: identifying opportunities within APHA and affiliates, strengthening ties with academic programs/schools, promoting student internships and mentoring, exploring collaborative research ventures, creating meaningful incentives, developing new relationships with other organizations having shared interests/values.

Policy and Advocacy. While APHA has proven effective in the policy and advocacy arenas, this area deserves greater emphasis to achieve our goals. Advocacy to advance overarching policy priorities is needed, above and beyond reacting to Executive or legislative actions. New strategies to engage members in policy development and promotion deserve exploration. Further, added streamlining APHA’s policymaking process to facilitate developing sound, evidence-based policies can contribute to more timely, proactive, and effective advocacy. Such efforts deserve Executive Board, Sections, and Affiliates, and Association-wide attention, planning, and coordination. I support expanding scientific/evidence-based public health policies and a range of effective advocacy initiatives. Visibility and recognition of advocacy efforts should encourage greater member involvement; generate interest among new and former members, and foster collaborative initiatives.
Executive Board Member Candidate
Jeanie Holt, MS, MPH
Strategic Planning Consultant

Education
BA, Colorado State University
BSN, Colby-Sawyer College
MS, University of New Hampshire
MPH, University of Hampshire

Biography

Jeanie Holt has had a long and varied career in public health and in leadership, a career detailed in her CV.

She retired from a nursing career in 2011. For the last 12 years of that career Ms. Holt worked in local public health. She directed a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention grant for nearly 10 years, in which her team created and tested community interventions to prevent diabetes in Latino communities in Southern New Hampshire. She also worked for a local health department in immunizations and was responsible for organizing school-based flu immunization programs, and creating educational materials to teach parents about the importance of getting vaccinated against whooping cough.

Ms. Holt has volunteered in public health leadership for more than 10 years beginning with her state affiliate, the New Hampshire Public Health Association. She was elected to the NHPHA Board of Directors in 2008 and has served as Chair of the Membership Committee (2008-2011), Co-Chair of the Public Policy Committee (2014-2016), and President (2011-2013). In addition Ms. Holt has been Affiliate Representative to the APHA Governing Council (2009-2016, 2018). In 2011, she became the Region 1 Representative to the Council of Affiliates (CoA) and then served the Council as Secretary (2012-2015), Chair-Elect (2016), Chair (2017), and Immediate Past Chair (2018). As Chair, Ms. Holt served on the Executive Board, including work on the Governance Committee and the Committee on Social Responsibility.

As Chair of the Council of Affiliates Ms. Holt initiated a collaboration with the Speaker of the Governing Council and the Chair of the Intersectional Council Steering Committee to broaden the participation in the Governing Council Breakout Session with a goal of drawing leaders from affiliates, sections, SPIGs and caucuses into discussing and planning concrete collaboration across all APHA’s communities. Several collaborative projects have taken shape from that session and Ms. Holt has continued to encourage and champion these efforts begun.
Ms. Holt has volunteered her time and expertise to assist affiliates to create effective strategic plans that align with and supplement APHA’s strategic plan. By the end of 2018, she will have worked with 10 affiliates. Ms. Holt has also led CoA efforts to strengthen affiliate participation in the policy development process.

Candidate Statement

1. While Chair of the CoA I served on the Executive Board. During that year I got to know the work of the Board and contributed to several projects. I want to continue actively working on current initiatives.

2. I am deeply committed to collaboration across the many communities within APHA. I have acted on that commitment in my work to connect sections and affiliates to do joint projects and in consulting with affiliates to align their strategic plans with APHA’s. The future of APHA, I believe, depends on our ability to work together while meeting the unique needs of our various communities.

3. I am passionate about making policy that works for system improvement. This requires policies that are both scientifically sound and action-oriented, that policies can be applied at all levels of government, and that we, APHA, aggressively advocate for the world we know will ensure health and equity.

4. I am a skilled listener. I listen carefully to ideas and opinions, looking for and articulating synthesis or new directions that create solutions for moving forward.

5. I have energy and time. Several members of the Executive Board have relied on me to pitch in and help in the past. I am willing to work on whatever is needed by APHA. I have experience and knowledge in policy, management, program, and membership to contribute effectively on the APHA Executive Board. And I have the passion and energy to serve you and APHA well.
Executive Board Member Candidate  
Heather McCabe, MSW, JD  
Assistant Professor  
Indiana University School of Social Work

**Education**  
BA, Indiana University  
MSW, Indiana University School of Social Work  
JD, Indiana University School of Law

**Biography**

Heather A. McCabe is an Associate Professor at the Indiana University School of Social Work. She also serves as adjunct professor at both the Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law and the Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health. She holds a BA in Psychology and English from Indiana University – Bloomington, an MSW from Indiana University School of Social Work, and a JD from Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law.

Professor McCabe’s research is done at the intersection of law, social work, and public health. Her research translates complex legal issues and research findings across multiple professions to make the information accessible for use by practitioners and advocates in improving population health. She has published in traditional academic journals and has also been sought by media to explain core issues of public health policy.

Before entering academia, Professor McCabe served as a medical social worker at a pediatric tertiary care hospital where she had direct experience working with a variety of interprofessional teams. This work was instrumental in her understanding of the value of a public health prevention lens in her work. As well as providing direct care, she has served in the policy arena as the Executive Director for the William S. and Christine S. Hall Center for Law and Health at the Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law. She has also been instrumental in developing interprofessional health education opportunities on the Indiana University- Purdue University Indianapolis campus. Her research interests are primarily in interprofessional collaboration, health policy, and public health.

Professor McCabe has been actively involved with APHA leadership for over a decade. Starting first in 2007 as the co-program chair for the Law SPIG, she has served a variety of roles within the Law SPIG. She worked as chair with a fantastic Law leadership team to shepherd the SPIG through the process to become a Section. She served on the ISC and ISC Steering Committee, serving as Chair of the Steering Committee in 2016-2017. In that position she served a year on
the Executive Board and became excited at the prospect of being able to serve APHA in that role.

**Candidate Statement**

I am thankful to have been selected as a nominee for the Executive Board of APHA. The work we do as an organization is critical to allow public health to have a strong and meaningful voice in the policymaking process.

My background is somewhat unconventional. I bring expertise in law, social work, and public health to the position of Executive Board Member. This unique set of skills will assist me in carrying out the responsibilities of a board member. I have worked on policy at the local, state, federal, and organizational level and bring a wealth of knowledge in policy design and implementation. In addition, in both my law and social work roles, I have studied and taught organizational structure and governance, including the role of boards, which will be an asset as I serve APHA in the role of executive board member. I have been responsible for organizational and grant budgets both in professional and volunteer organizations and can meaningfully contribute to discussions of APHA budgeting priorities.

My leadership positions in APHA have given me experience in the membership needs of the organization. My service has primarily been in the components, where I have served in multiple roles in the Law SPIG and, later, Section. As Chair of the Law Section, I was an active member of the ISC serving on the ISC Steering Committee as Chair. Through this position I was able to work with the COA Chair and learn more about the needs of Affiliates and their membership. This position also allowed me to spend a year on the Executive Board and understand the demands of the position. I have worked with committees on policies for the organization as well. I would welcome the opportunity to serve APHA on the Executive Board.
Executive Board Member Candidate
Hope M. Rollins
Director of Education and Training
Education and Communication Services
Michigan Public Health Institute

Education
AS, Washtenaw Community College
BS, Western Michigan University

Biography

Hope Rollins joined APHA in 2007, serving as a proxy for Michigan's Affiliate Representative to the Governing Council. The desire to learn more and serve APHA blossomed from that experience. Throughout her tenure within APHA, she has served in ever-increasing roles: Michigan ARGC; Region V Representative on the Council of Affiliates; Council of Affiliates Representative on Action Board; Chair, Region Vís Great Lakes Public Health Coalition; and an abstract reviewer for the Public Health Education and Health Promotion Section. Volunteerism and activism are common threads that extend beyond APHA. She is also very active in her local state affiliate where she has served as its ARGC since 2008 and was President (2008-2009). Ms. Rollins consults with various community-based and educational institutions offering group and strategic planning services, marketing and event management consultation; public health career mentoring; focus group facilitation; training curriculum development; and grant proposal writing and consultation. She also serves on two Greater Lansing boards with focuses on the arts, health, social innovation, and youth reading literacy.

Hope is the Director of Education and Training at the Michigan Public Health Institute, Education and Communication Services where she provides programmatic and administrative oversight for both the event management and continuing education project teams that develop, produce and support over 300+ instructor led and online educational offerings annually. Her work entails programmatic business development, quality assurance measures, and strategic outreach and promotion. The CE unit provides credits for various disciplines for both statewide and national training programs. She has worked extensively within the last 25+ years in the non-profit sector and health care/human services industries. Prior to coming to MPH in 1999, she worked in ever-increasing roles for over seven years at Detroit based, Henry Ford Health System, including supervising the Health Alliance Plan Medicare Risk Assessment Call Center and assisting the medical groups in developing and implementing quality improvement measures to meet NCQA and HEDISÆ goals for JACHO accreditation/compliance.

Hope received her Bachelor of Science in Multidisciplinary Health Studies from Michigan State University, and is currently in the Masters of Business Administration program at Davenport.
University. She resides in Lansing with her husband Chris and three children. Public health is her passion, where she believes that every person should have the equal opportunity to attain their highest level of health.

**Candidate Statement**

I have followed thought leaders such as, C.K. Prahalad, DBA, Stuart L. Hart, and Valerie Batts, PhD, and many others over time. However, in 2008, in a sea of over 14,000 public health professionals, I knew I would be adding another name - Sir Michael Marmot, a professor at University of College London, Institute of Health Equity and Chair of the Commission on Social Determinants of Health, World Health Organization. I listened intently while serving in my first leadership role as Michigan's ARGC, at the APHA Annual Meeting. Marmot spoke with such conviction and intellect about health as a right. The hall was silent. I listened carefully to determine ways to leverage the knowledge and respond to the Call to Action through my employment, mentoring students/early professionals, volunteerism and my social capital to mobilize change. This is what APHA means to me personally. It covers multiple facets which requires passion, authentic relationships, vision, management, advocacy, and servant leadership.

My desire to volunteer flourished in APHA, where I have served in ever-increasing roles: Michigan ARGC; Region V Representative on the Council of Affiliates (CoA); CoA Representative on Action Board; Chair, Region V (Great Lakes Public Health Coalition); Abstract Reviewer and Judge for CoA student posters; an Abstract Reviewer for the Public Health Education and Health Promotion Section; and other ad hoc committees. Over the last 25+ years in the non-profit and health care/human services industries, my current role is Director of Education and Training at the Michigan Public Health Institute, Education and Communication Services. I provide programmatic and administrative oversight for both the professional continuing education and event management project teams. Daily operations involve business development (contract negotiations, grant research, writing and reporting); strategic outreach and promotion, and assuring continuous quality assurance efforts. I seek to serve on the APHA Executive Board to further the work of the Strategic Plan and other initiatives, through business social innovation to improve population health, strengthen public health practice, organizational sustainability, advocacy and health policy.

I have a Bachelor of Science in Multidisciplinary Health Studies from Michigan State University and am currently pursuing my Masters of Business Administration degree at Davenport University. I reside in Lansing with my wonderful husband Chris and three precious children. Public health is my passion, where I believe every person should have the equal opportunity to attain their highest level of health. It is my hope that innocent faces like 2-year-old Sincere Smith will no longer need to grace the cover of Time Magazine to reflect a water crisis in a forgotten town - but rather build a public health collaborative movement of businesses, consumers, policy makers, and public health professionals who will co-create together, so that a story such as his, is never told again.
Executive Board Member Candidate
Selena E. Smith, MPA
Senior Associate Director, Urban Health Programs
University of Illinois - Chicago

Education
BA, University of Illinois - Chicago
MPA, University of Illinois - Chicago

Biography

Selena E. Smith has over 20 years of health education and administrative experience in higher education, not-for-profit and public sectors. She is currently the Senior Associate Director for the University of Illinois at Chicago’s Urban Health Program Administrative Office. She is passionate about educating the underserved and underrepresented populations in higher education and is an advocate for access to quality health care. She has actively pushed for increased access to health care for underserved families on an international, national and local level.

Smith is a native Chicagoan. She grew up in a family where her grandmother and mother were pillars in the community, advocating for residences and their rights and creating safer environments. Selena attended the University of Illinois at Chicago where she earned a Bachelor of Arts and a Masters in Public Administration. Selena has been an advocate in her community and church for access to quality healthcare, education for inner city school children, affordable housing, and elimination of food deserts, for the betterment of the underserved population. She has witnessed the environmental culture of Chicago change, where life spans are shortened and longevity denied, because of gun violence, and other preventable social issues.

Selena built her professional career at UIC, working tirelessly towards the mission of increasing the number of minority public health professionals and practitioners who can serve within the identified health professional shortage areas. She has fostered relationships and established partnerships across communities educating and steering people towards making informed, educated, health conscious decisions. Selena has held leadership roles in professional organizations and committees; the 7th Congressional District Legislative Health Task Force liaison; the APHA Caucus Collaborative, her role as both President and Co-chair Scientific Session Planner within the Black Caucus of Health Workers of APHA.
Candidate Statement

What the American Public Health Association Means to Me:

I selected the American Public Health Association (APHA) nearly 20 years ago, as my professional organization of choice, because I respect APHA's renowned leadership nationally and internationally, on domestic and global public health issues. I’m proud of the Association's commitment to defending public health practices. I’m especially proud of the Association’s pursuit of “health for all” and its commitment to stand by and support the Affordable Care Act (ACA), opposing the repeal-and-replace legislative agenda being pushed by the white house. It's interest in eliminating racial, socio-economic, gender and rural health disparities, and its interest in creating health equity by addressing the behavioral, social and environmental conditions that create and support equitable health.

Why I am Running for Executive Board:

There are two key reasons why I want to serve as a member of the APHA Executive Board.

1) My admiration for APHA, and my desire to do my part in ensuring that APHA's mission and vision throughout America, are carried out, creating the healthiest nation.
   • I want to protect and promote the public’s health and quality of life.
   • I want to promote community health by promoting safety and safe environments, by promoting comprehensive, accessible, prevention-oriented health care systems throughout America and the world.
   • I want to promote health education through building awareness, enabling people to increase control over and to improve their health by changing their behavior, and supporting proven initiatives that are effective enough to be replicated.

2) My professional training as a public administrator, a public servant, and a servant leader.
   • As a public administrator, I am committed to equitable health and safety for all, to improving population health through the pursuit of Health in All Policies. For example, at the passing of the ACA, I worked diligently at getting people to enroll during periods of open enrollment. I was instrumental in the organizing of community meetings in the 2nd and 7th congressional districts, educating people on the policy changes and what they could expect from various insurance carriers.
   • I increased community awareness by giving talks on what better health practices are and why health care is needed; being attentive to the request of APHA to respond to certain advocacy messages to our congressional members and legislators. I believe in advocating for health care as a right! To be healthy is something that should be available to all; it is not a privilege, to which can be afforded only to those who can pay for it. It is at this point that my role as public administrator becomes most serviceable and vital.
   • As a public servant, and leader, I strive to work with people from all walks of life; I understand the concept of public servant and service. I make every effort not
to limit myself to one health care silo, but instead, I take the challenge of looking within, and across, communities, agencies, academic institutions, public/private partnerships, populations, families, and individuals, for transformative and valued-added solutions.

My Passion: What Drives Me
I am passionate about equity and fairness. I am passionate about healthy people. I am passionate about socio-economic equality and its impact on health and healthy lifestyles. Why am I passionate about these things?

I grew up in Chicago, where my family and I currently reside and living here has allowed me to witness some of the most disheartening inequitable practices that one has ever seen. In Chicago, there has always been a fight for something; better health, better schools, equal pay, better housing, elimination of food and cooking deserts, however, things are worse now than ever before. Over the years, Chicago has become a city where life spans are shortened, and longevity denied, as a result of senseless gun violence, unaddressed overt mental illness and a place where the practice of unlawful conduct by law enforcement has become the status quo.

This city is where I have built and spent my professional career at UIC, concentrating on the mission of increasing the number of minority public health professionals and practitioners who can serve within the identified health professional shortage areas;

This city is where I work day and night, and night and day, to create and promote safe environments to assure good health;

This city is where I have fostered relationships and inspired partnerships across communities; using the art of persuasion to educate and steer people towards making informed, educated, health conscious decisions;

This city is where I have collaborated/facilitated and spearheaded multiple health related initiatives, specifically those that bring together the members of the community, the clergy, congressional members and state legislators, with the hopes of implementing effective change.

The pursuit of health and wellness is the reason why I am a member of the Public Health Education and Health Promotion Section.

The pursuit of social justice is the reason why I’m a member of the Community Health Planning and Policy Development Section.

The pursuit of a quality education is why I am a member of the School Health Education and Services Section.

The pursuit of health equity is the reason why I currently serve as a member of the Black Caucus of Health Workers. I have worked diligently over the years to ensure that the Black
Caucus champions health equity, by ensuring that health equity is and remains one of the core values/pillars of APHA.

Why Vote for Me:
For nearly 20 years, I’ve been actively involved in the fight for health, equality, education, life, and safety; a journey developing a vision for health equity with fellow public health practitioners who are members of this amazing organization, APHA. These 20 years have been amazing, unforgettable, and unparalleled to say the least. Over the course of these 20 years, I have developed a sound platform from which to speak about inequitable health practices, quality of life, socio-economic development practices/opportunities and behaviors for all stages of life. I am thankful today for the positive impact that APHA has had in shaping my ideologies on advocacy and health equity. I am grateful and want to give back to the organization that has invested in me.

THIS is why I want to serve as a member of the APHA Executive-Board.
I am passionate about ensuring health equity for the un-represented, and the under-represented. I have made, and want to continue to make, a difference in people’s lives, by encouraging healthier lifestyles, by teaching preventive health, and by advocating for health quality and equality. Right now, and Right here in America, we need people who are willing to speak TRUTHS and FACTS! People who are not afraid and willing to face embrace the struggles that lie ahead

I want to thank you for taking the time to consider my candidacy, and I look forward to meeting you at the Governing Council meeting on November 10, 2018.

If I can answer any questions you may have regarding my candidacy, I welcome your call at 312-656-6133 or your e-mail at seas@uic.edu.

In Service,

Selena E. Smith, MPA