

March 31, 2017

Dear Team,

I hope everyone survived midterms and enjoyed spring break, or at least are relieved they are halfway through the semester!

A highlight of the month for me was to join Chancellor Gold as hosted a South Omaha Community visit. We had the opportunity to meet with State Senator Tony Vargas, the leadership at the One World Federally Qualified Health Center and Justice for our Neighbors. We were able to brainstorm ideas for increased engagement with the community to address their unique health disparities. Thank you to Dr. Dejun Su, Ms. Athena Ramos and the rest of the Center for Reducing Health Disparities for allowing me to highlight the work happening in South Omaha.

Many congratulations are in order for our faculty and staff.

Congratulations and a big thank you to Ms. Mary Morris. She celebrated her 25th anniversary on campus this month. Mary has worked in many different capacities during her time at UNMC and we are lucky to have her on our team.

Ms. Athena Ramos was named a Rural Future Institute Fellow and will work with faculty researches from the University system, other institutions and community partners across the state to think strategically about opportunities in rural business, health care, education, technology and more.

Kudos to incoming Associate Dean of Academic and Student Affairs, Dr. Christine Arcari. She will receive the Marion Bishop Educator of the Year Award at the Association for Prevention Teaching and Research in April. The award recognizes educators who have contributed to the instruction of students or residents in the field of public health and preventive medicine.

Last, but not least, Ms. Tari Rose was our Silver U winner. Tari is truly the face of the college and her nominator said it best, "Tari represents the College of Public Health with a warm and welcoming attitude to faculty, staff, students and visitors to the building." I could not agree more!

A reminder to everyone that National Public Health Week (NPHW) 2017 is April 3- 9. Our students are hard at work making sure the week is chock full of activities starting with a student



organized volunteer day. I cannot wait for Student Research Day, a favorite event. Please check your emails with information on how to join activities and events. I am sure it will once again be a high point of the year.

If that was not enough, I have taken up gambling! I made a friendly wager with other Deans and Directors that our college would rack up more miles than anyone else on this campus as part of the NE150 Challenge that is part of the state's sesquicentennial celebration. You can join now at <https://www.ne150challenge.com/groups/group/unmc-college-public-health>. Stay tuned for a full article in UNMC Today where you can learn more, including how you can earn free swag!

Always listening,
Ask

Ali S. Khan, MD, MPH

Retired Assistant Surgeon General, USPHS

Dean and Professor

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