

May 5, 2015

Hello Team,

Our students made April a wonderful month here at our College of Public Health. The COPH Student Association did a fabulous job hosting National Public Health Week including a Research Day event and a community Volunteer Day. Many thanks to the Student Association, especially leads Ketki Patel, Melissa Leon, Katelyn Jelden, Kelsey Palm, Molly McCarthy, and Brittany Schwartz. The College celebrated students and faculty at The Annual Awards Dinner this month, and students showed off their excellent and hard work during their Capstone and Service Learning presentations. I am amazed at their dedication and talents on a daily basis!

While things were wonderful here, as you know, Nepal was hit by a devastating earthquake on April 25. As the Chancellor said in an email he sent on April 29, when disaster strikes, Nebraskans respond. UNMC and Nebraska Medicine, students, faculty and staff, have stepped up to assist with this terrible tragedy. Dr. Ward Chambers is coordinating the UNMC/Nebraska Medicine Nepal Relief Effort 2015. Please do not forget there are specific ways you can help; take time to access the following links that include details information: [The Nepal Relief page](#) and [The Nepal Disaster Relief Fund](#). Once again, our community's response to others in need, makes me proud to be part of this organization.

Strategic Planning continues in full swing. During the month of April, stakeholders had the opportunity to complete the pre-COPH Strategic Planning Town Hall Survey in preparation for Town Hall Meetings being offered on May 15, 18, and 20. We are doing our best to ensure that all stakeholders have an opportunity to contribute to our Strategic Planning process. We also continue our search for the Chair position in the Department of Health Promotion, Social and Behavioral Health and I hope people had the opportunity to attend the presentation last week. Two more candidate presentations are scheduled for May.

As always, I was excited to get out into the community and spread the word about public health. I was happy to have the opportunity to provide the keynote address at the Nebraska Hospital Association gathering, provide a talk to the Lincoln Rotary Club, and speak at the American Cancer Society Day at the Capitol. Along with other College of Public Health and College of Medicine Deans, I had the honor of participating in meetings at The White House regarding climate change. The White House Office of Science and Technology Director, John Holdren, will be in Lincoln on May 6 to continue the discussion.

Kris and I were invited to attend the opera this month by Ms. Katie Weitz and enjoyed Fidelio, Beethoven's only opera. We have been impressed by Omaha's art scene; another reason to love our new home. And the turkeys are back on our yard.



I'm not sure how everyone's doing with the Fitness That Works Challenge. Sadly, the Dean's Office Dynamos got off to a slow start, but don't let that fool you...we're going to "bring it" in May!

Always listening,
Ask

Ali S. Khan, MD, MPH

Retired Assistant Surgeon General, USPHS

Dean and Professor

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