



September 5, 2018

Dear Team,

I hope this finds everyone enjoying the start of a new semester! If you are new to the College, I invite you to stop by to say hello. If my door is open, don't be shy, you're welcome to pop in.

There are not only new faces in our student body, but in our faculty and staff as well. Welcome to Michaela Schenkelberg (Research Associate), Regina Robbins (Assistant Professor), and Fabiana Silva (Research Assistant Professor) in Health Promotion, Hongying Dai (Associate Professor), Jihyun Ma (Statistician) and, Yeongiin Gwon (Assistant Professor) in Biostatistics, Aza Mohammad Abadi Kamarei (Post-Doc Research Associate) in Environmental, Agricultural & Occupational Health, and Kenya Love (Community Health Program Manager (Center for Reducing Health Disparities).

Thank you to everyone who attended my "All Hands" gathering last week. I'll continue to host these gatherings twice a year, near the beginning of the fall and spring semesters. It's a great time to come together to share updates and good news with returning faces as well as those new to the College. A quick note that "All Hands" is really, all hands (a term from my uniformed service days), that includes faculty, staff, AND students. The waffle bar addition was a huge hit – apparently, nothing says welcome back like bacon!

As I mentioned during my "All Hands", I truly believe there has never been a better time to be engaged in public health. Public health practitioners can play a critical role that in the national dialogue on affordable healthcare, disease prevention, gun violence, climate change, opioid addiction, mental health, and antimicrobial resistance to name a few. As students, faculty, and staff we have a great opportunity to participate in this national dialogue with brilliant science, advocacy, and our votes.

The beginning of the new semester is a great time to get involved in College activities. Please be sure to join us as we host a thank you celebration in honor of Dr. Jane Meza, who, among other things, was the College's Senior Associate Dean. Dr. Meza has been a pillar in the College since its inception and recently accepted the position of Associate Vice Chancellor for Global Engagement at UNMC and UNO. Come join me in thanking Dr. Meza and wishing her well in her new role on September 6th at 3:00 p.m. in the 3rd Floor Commons area of the College.



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Our wonderful Student Association is busy organizing a Dean's Forum on October 3. Start getting your questions and comments ready to share with me. It is one of my favorite events each year, mostly because I always leave with some excellent ideas and things to consider from our great student body. Stay tuned for details coming from the Officers.

Currently, the Evaluation Committee and Curriculum Committee are seeking nominations for student representatives. Ms. Jessica Tschirren, Director, Student Affairs, recently sent out informational emails regarding both. Don't delay! Nominations are due September 11th. In addition, the Wellness Council is seeking volunteers to serve. Interested parties should attend the groups next meeting on September 19th at 11:00 a.m. in room 3020, or email Ms. Ellen Duysen, Coordinator, CS-CASH, for details.

We have worked diligently to create and launch a revised MPH core. With the new design, students will have an opportunity to be a more active participant in their learning. Authentic learning, knowledge building, critical thinking, and developing important public health skills are essential components of the new core. This semester, we were able to offer four of the five new core courses, and we look forward to hearing student feedback in the course evaluations.

Academia can be a challenging, anxiety inducing, and stressful environment with some experiencing this more than others. This rings true for students, faculty, and staff. Self-care matters. If you are struggling, please know there are always people available to talk and referrals to services that can help. On the flip side, if you notice someone struggling, please reach out to them. Let's be kind to ourselves and each other as we get through this thing called life.

Wishing everyone a great fall semester!

Always listening,

ask

Ali S. Khan, MD, MPH

Retired Assistant Surgeon General, USPHS

Dean and Professor

College of Public Health | Office of the Dean