

February 1, 2019

Dear Team,

Happy New Year and new semester!

Thank you to everyone who attended the forum featuring Chancellor Gold and me; it was a great segue to our All Hands New Year celebration. It was great to share my resolutions for our College, and a couple for myself, and I loved the passionate resolutions people were brave enough to share with the crowd.

I had the pleasure of attending the campus's annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day program this year. There can never be enough celebration of this civil rights movement activist. Ben Gray, Omaha City Council President, talked about how much further we have to go in achieving equity for all. He challenged us to vote for representatives who understand the importance of equity, challenging people when we witness something inappropriate, and to be engaged in our community. Thanks to our College's Diversity Council, we are building our commitment to bettering ourselves by learning, listening, and implementing all we can to ensure diversity and inclusion. They are looking for our help to review the COPH Statement on Diversity and to contribute to an online ThinkTank brainstorming session. Please be sure to read Dean Arcari's January 30 email for important details. This starts with all of us and I thank you in advance for your participation.

Speaking of being engaged in communities, congratulations to Dr. Brandon Grimm who will receive the Academic Public Health Practice Excellence Award from the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH). Dr. Grimm's work with our state and local health departments is truly transformational and I can think of no one better for this award. Congratulations to Dr. Aaron Yoder, Dr. Mo Siahpush, and Dr. David Dzewaltowski who received the 2018 New Investigator, Research Leadership, and Distinguished Scientist Awards, respectively. These awards are a testament to their outstanding achievements and continuous contributions to UNMC. Congratulations are also in order for Dr. Kendra Schmid who will receive the Research in Education Scholar Award. Dr. Schmid's scholarly work demonstrates a sustained record of great accomplishment in teaching, innovation, and scholarship.

Welcome to Ms. Krista Brown, project manager in Epidemiology and Alexandra Farfalla in Environmental, Agricultural, and Occupational Health (EAOH) who made the leap

from Graduate Assistant to staff member. While Rachel Maley has been providing support to EAOH for quite some time, she became an official employee last month!

We are in the midst of a growth spurt at our College. We recently completed a round of interviews with Biostats chair finalists, are in the process of hiring a new Assistant Dean of Management and Operations as Mr. Keith Hansen has returned to his first love - preparedness, and Epi is looking for great infectious diseases and cancer faculty and staff. With this growth, there will be even more opportunity for our students to receive the best education and practical experiences that are available. A reminder to everyone that right now, Ms. Brenda Nickol has great opportunities on the career services webpage, the College has a number of awards and scholarships available, the Office of Public Health Practice has APEX opportunities with funding available (see Ms. Stacey Coleman), and I'm even looking for a new Epi fellow (see me or Ms. Cathy Ely)!

Always listening,

ask

**Ali S. Khan, MD, MPH**

Retired Assistant Surgeon General, USPHS

Dean and Professor

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