

March 5, 2018

Dear Team,

We definitely got in our 31 days of work in 28 days this month!

Let's start with the budget. Thank you to everyone who answered my call to submit your ideas to increase revenue, reduce expenses, and create more efficient processes within our college in response to the Governor's proposal to cut higher education in Nebraska. There were some excellent ideas and we appreciate that so many people took the time to participate in the survey. All of your submissions will be discussed with the College leadership. Regardless of the legislative outcome, these ideas will allow us to better prioritize our existing resources. Fortunately, these deliberations do NOT impact our commitment to a quality education for our students and to their success.

Kudos to the [Center for Reducing Health Disparities](#), and in particular [Eric Meyer, PhD student at the College](#), for hosting an [event at Kaneko](#) to share a qualitative study on community violence - [Listen to My Story: Perspectives of African-American Mothers and Male Offenders on Violence in Omaha, Nebraska](#). A group of local poets used their creative spirit and energy to give life to the narratives of mothers and male offenders who have experienced violence in Omaha. Through this theatrical presentation, Eric incorporated personal feelings and emotions experienced while conducting this study and provided a very unconventional, but powerful way to engage our community in preventing violence. The latest tragedy in the news, the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting, has created a tidal wave of action. Students, educators, community members, and parents impacted by the shooting, have raised their voices and are demanding change to decrease violence in communities around the country. Eric's new approach could be another model our nation needs to inspire action, providing decision makers with a personal glimpse into how violence affects people's daily lives in profound ways.

Congratulations to Dr. Deborah Levy as she adds to her chair role to serve as the inaugural Director of the new proposed Center for Cancer Prevention and Populations Science (CCPPS). The position will be a critical bridge to the Fred & Pamela Buffet Cancer Center to improve cancer science and cancer prevention activities for Nebraskans and the many other communities we serve. The new proposed center with its population health science focus will also be an integral component for the FPBCC as it becomes a NCI (National Cancer Institute) - designated *comprehensive* cancer center, which is the next step up to their current designation of a Cancer Center.

Congratulations also to Dr. David Dzewaltowski who received a cancer prevention R01 grant from the National Cancer Institute. Dr. Dzewaltowski's work will focus on promoting sustained physical activity in rural communities using a multi-leveled, whole-community approach.

Welcome to Bibiana (Marcela) Carvajal-Suarez, who made the crossover from student to staff member this month. Marcela has taken on the role of Outreach Project Specialist in the College's Center for Reducing Health Disparities and we are excited to have her on-board.



As the month ends, we have the honor of hosting colleagues from Kazan State Medical University in Russia. The Kazan team is here to learn more about our programs, initiatives, and faculty. The partnership will also provide an opportunity to continue discussions related to the proposed Public Health Symposium and our institutions participating in student/faculty exchanges and joint degrees. Special thanks to Dr. Chambers for working so hard to make this visit happen.

Students, be sure to mark your calendars for the [third annual Public Health Opportunity Fair](#) on March 29. The UNMC College of Public Health Student Affairs, Student Association, and Alumni Engagement Council arranged this event to provide an opportunity to network and learn how to become involved with many community organizations. You never know if a connection could lead to a Service Learning/Capstone Experience (SL/CE) or job opportunity! Faculty and staff are welcome, too.

Always listening,  
Ask

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

Retired Assistant Surgeon General, USPHS

Dean and Professor

College of Public Health | Office of the Dean