

March 3, 2016

Hello Team,

With 29 days in February, this year has all the hallmarks to being exceptional!

Congratulations to Mr. Ira Combs as he was selected to receive the Prevent Cancer Foundation's Laurel for Dedication to Community Service for his outstanding leadership in cancer prevention and early detection. This honor is for individuals who have personal passion for cancer prevention and early detection and who have brought about positive change in the public, professional or political arena. Ira will be presented with this award during the month of April. Way to go, Ira!

I'm delighted to announce new additions to the College. Welcome to Dr. Evi Farazi (Assistant Professor in Epidemiology), and Abbie Raikes (Assistant Professor in Health Promotion, Social and Behavioral Health) as well as Ms. Kristi Gifford, who is the new Dean's Office Administrative Associate II.

Dr. Sharon Medcalf began filming her Massive Online Open Course (MOOC) this month, titled: "Ebola and Beyond: Concepts of High Level Biocontainment". She estimates its launch by June/July 2016. She also attended the Global Health Summit in Dubai along with Kara Stephens. They were able to showcase our leadership role in health security and explore new partnerships.

The College continues to forge collaborative relationships with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (NDHHS). This month, Dr. Melissa Tibbits, Dr. Nizar Wehbi, Dr. Shinobu Watanabe-Galloway and Dr. Brandon Grimm met with NDHHS CEO Ms. Courtney Phillips and her team to identify new actions to directly target the Nebraska America's Health Rankings health indicators in 2016. This group is slated to continue meeting on a monthly basis. Additionally, Dr. Mo Siahpush assembled a team consisting of representatives from the College as well as select external partners which met with Mr. Calder Lynch (Director, NDHHS Medicaid) and his team regarding a funding opportunity for Accountable Health Communities (AHC). The AHC model addresses a critical gap between clinical care and community services that we are championing as an innovative effort to help make Nebraska the healthiest state. The College and NDHHS team are working together on the best approach for this process as we engage community partners to apply for this funding.

Also, a big thank you to Ms. Carol Russell, a great friend to the College, for introducing me to Mr. John Wilson, Executive Director with the Daugherty Foundation and Mr. Jeff Kutash, Executive Director and Ms. Tracy Bohrofen, Senior Program Officer, both of the Peter Kiewit



Foundation. It is always great to meet and connect with the Foundations that support our community and explore new opportunities for our programs.

To close out this phenomenal month, Dean Meza provided legislative testimony on creating a climate change committee. I also had the honor to provide testimony on legislation to support the increase of taxes on cigarettes and tobacco products. Keep an eye out for an informative email on how you can be a champion for this much needed tobacco legislation.

Always listening,
Ask

Ali S. Khan, MD, MPH

Retired Assistant Surgeon General, USPHS

Dean and Professor

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