

Zuckerman College of Public Health
CONVOCATION



FALL
20
25



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
Mel & Enid Zuckerman
College of Public Health

WELCOME

December 20, 2025

Centennial Hall
Tucson, AZ

The University of Arizona
Mel & Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health
Fall 2025 Convocation

Processional

Welcome and Remarks

Iman Hakim MD, PhD, MPH '94
Dean

Recognition of Student Awards

John Ehiri PhD, MPH, MSc
Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

Presentation of Graduates

Doctor of Philosophy Graduates
Master of Public Health Graduates
Bachelor of Arts Graduates
Bachelor of Science Graduates

Recessional

DEAR GRADUATES, FAMILIES, FACULTY, AND FRIENDS,

Welcome to the Fall 2025 Convocation of the Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health. This year, we proudly celebrate 25 years of preparing public health leaders, advancing knowledge, and making a difference in communities everywhere.

Today, we honor you, the newest members of that legacy.

Graduates, your journey here has been defined by curiosity, dedication, and a commitment to improving the health of others. You've tackled challenges, embraced innovation, and shown the resilience and creativity that public health demands. Your education has prepared you to lead, to advocate, and to make meaningful change in a world that needs your skills now more than ever.

To the families, friends, faculty, and staff who have supported these graduates: thank you! Your encouragement and belief have made this day possible.

Graduates, take pride in all you've accomplished. As part of a quarter-century of Zuckerman College alumni, you join a network of changemakers shaping healthier futures. Carry forward your passion, your curiosity, and your courage, and go make a difference.

Congratulations, Fall 2025 graduates!

Bear Down!

With pride and best wishes,

Iman Hakim MD, PhD, MPH '94
Dean





ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA MEL AND ENID ZUCKERMAN COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Established in the year 2000, the Mel & Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health at the University of Arizona Health Sciences delivers top-tier public health education and research to build healthier communities locally, nationally, and globally. The only nationally accredited college of public health in Arizona, with campuses in Tucson and Phoenix as well as online programs, the college enrolls hundreds of students per year across degree programs at the bachelor's degree, master's degree and doctoral levels. As a leader in public health research and practice, the College receives significant federal grant funding and continues to find solutions to public health challenges through community-based research and service programs across the Southwest and globally, including tribal communities, Spanish-language communities, and border communities.



ACADEMIC PROGRAMS OF THE COLLEGE

The **Bachelor of Arts (BA)** in Wellness and Health Promotion Practice, launched in Fall 2021, is the newest undergraduate degree available in the Zuckerman College of Public Health. The major offers students the opportunity to develop the knowledge, skills, ethics, and cultural competencies needed to provide professional wellness services and interventions. This degree, available for main campus and fully online students, includes emphasis areas in health education, health and wellness, or aging and population health.

The **Bachelor of Science (BS)**, with a major in Public Health, admitted its first students in Fall 2009, and offers a broad-based public health curriculum with undergraduate emphasis area options in environmental and occupational health, global health, health promotion, health systems theory and practice, one health, and quantitative methods in public health.

An **Online Bachelor of Science (BS)** with a major in Public Health launched in Fall 2016. Fully online students choose a public health emphasis area in environmental and occupational health, global health, health systems theory and practice, one health, or public health practice.

The **Master of Public Health Program (MPH)** offers a Master of Public Health degree on either the Tucson or Phoenix Campus with various concentration areas: Biostatistics, Climate Change and Health, Environmental and Occupational Health, Epidemiology, Family and Child Health, Global Health, Health Behavior Health Promotion, Health Services Administration in Phoenix and Tucson, One Health, Public Health Policy and Management, and Public Health Practice in Phoenix.



The College's **Online Master of Public Health Program (MPH)** offers concentrations in Applied Epidemiology, Climate Change and Health, Global Health, Health Behavior Health Promotion, and Health Services Administration. The Online MPH program was initiated in Fall of 2015.

For **Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) Program** offers an advanced, professional degree program for students who already have an MPH degree or its equivalent. Focused on developing future leaders in public health practice, this doctoral degree program offers two major concentration areas for DrPH candidates: Maternal and Child Health and Public Health Policy and Management.

The **Biostatistics MS and PhD Programs** prepare students who have demonstrated excellence in mathematics and the sciences with the skills to become research biostatisticians in academia, industry, or government.

The **Environmental Health Sciences MS and PhD Programs** were developed for graduate students who want to gain expertise in topics related to climate change, water quality and quantity and their impacts on health, and other environmental health issues. The programs launched in Fall 2010.

The **Epidemiology MS and PhD Programs** provide multi-disciplinary collaborations among program faculty and university departments, and engage state and national health institutions to provide classroom and community training opportunities.

The **PhD in Health Behavior Health Promotion (HBHP)** offers a diverse and challenging curriculum that addresses health behavior health promotion theory, knowledge and skills needed to work on health issues within the diverse communities of the Southwest U.S. Launched in 2014, the program trains students to use mixed qualitative/quantitative research methods, statistics, and grant development skills to improved community health.



RECOGNITION OF STUDENT AWARDS

Outstanding Senior Award

The *Outstanding Senior Award* is awarded to undergraduate students who have demonstrated exceptional achievements in: academic performance, internship performance, commitment to the College of Public Health and/or the College's mission statement and values, community service.

Nicole Laabs

Public Health Service Award

The *Public Health Service Award* is awarded to an undergraduate student who has demonstrated outstanding achievements in Commitment to the College of Public Health and/or the College's mission statement and values and in Community Service.

Gabriella Matney

Outstanding Master of Public Health Student Award

The *Outstanding Master of Public Health Student Award* was established to recognize graduating MPH students from both the main and online campus who have demonstrated outstanding achievements in the following areas:

(1) Academic Performance, (2) Internship Performance, (3) Commitment to the College of Public Health, (4) Community Service.

Aaron Heras

Deshawna Yazzie

Public Health Ambassadors

We are delighted to recognize our talented graduating Public Health Student Ambassadors. Our ambassadors, who are wearing salmon honor cords, provide tremendous assistance to the College of Public Health in our recruiting and admissions efforts, assist the College with our social media presence; provide outreach to campus clubs and organizations; and generally represent the College of Public Health as public health students and professionals.

UNDERGRADUATE AMBASSADORS

Robyn Danielle Tagle Almario

Aaron Lorea

Global Health Institute Scholars

The Global Health Institute (GHI) Scholars Program prepares students to thrive in an interconnected world by building skills in service learning, cultural competence, and global awareness. Graduating scholars apply these experiences to analyze and solve problems from diverse perspectives and in cross-cultural settings.

Kendra Martinez

Undergraduate Academic Honors

The undergraduate students recognized below have achieved academic excellence in their studies, as reflected by their grade point averages.

SUMMA CUM LAUDE

Meaning with highest great honor—gold honor cord

Awarded to candidates whose grade point average is 3.90 or higher

Nicole Laabs

MAGNA CUM LAUDE

Meaning with high praise and honor—red honor cord

Awarded to candidates whose grade point average is 3.75 or higher

Olivia Breheny

Ezdna Cazares

Hannah Ketcham

CUM LAUDE

Meaning with praise or honor—blue honor cord

Awarded to candidates whose grade point average is 3.500 or higher

Meghan Beatty

Jackson Kloes

Audrey Rose Wells

Riley Cleveland

Lydia Pongratz

Emily Worrall

DOCTORAL GRADUATES

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

with Dissertation Topics and Chairs

Biostatistics

Serena Allred

Topic: Statistical Normalization and Measures Development in the Biological Sciences

Chair: David Billheimer

Epidemiology

Joy Luzingu

Topic: Evaluation of Kidenga: A Community-Based Mobile Application for Arboviral Disease Surveillance

Chair: Kacey Ernst

Samantha Ruth

Topic: Epidemiological Surveillance of Long COVID-19 in Southern Arizona: A Comparative Study of Active vs. Passive Surveillance

Chair: Kristen Pogreba Brown

MASTER GRADUATES

Master of Public Health (MPH)

with Internship Projects and Sites

Climate Change & Health

Kendra Martinez

Project: Water Quality in the Lake Atitlan Watershed: Understanding the Health Implications, Community Engagement and Connection to Climate Change

Site: UVG – Universidad del Valle de Guatemala – Altiplano Campus

Epidemiology

Aaron Heras

Project: Analysis and Report on Association between Occupation and Opioid Overdose

Site: Pima County Health Department

Genesis Mendoza

Project: Cancer Prevention and Control / HACER (Hispanic Adapted and Culturally Relevant Exercising Together)

Site: The University of Arizona, College of Nursing, FRESH Lab

Kharen Morgan

*Project: Strengthening Evaluation
Practices to Measure Impact in Youth
Programming*

Site: The Zuckerman Family Center for
Prevention & Health Promotion

Family & Child Health

Aracely Esquer, MEd

Dual Degree: MS, Mexican American Studies

*Project: Maternal Health Care Accessibility and Female Reproductive Cancer
Incidence Across the U.S.-Mexico Border*

Site: University of Arizona Health & Urban Modeling Lab, HUM.Lab

Global Health

Carina Morris

Project: Evaluating Occupational Exposures and Health Risks in Welding Operations

Site: Central Arizona Project

Health Services Administration – Main Campus

Eileen Sanchez

*Project: Qualitative Results of Latinos living in Maricopa County and their Perceptions
on Blood Donations*

Site: The University of Arizona, Primary Prevention Mobile Health Unit

Applied Epidemiology – Online

Brittney Lira*

*Project: Special Projects for Afterschool
Programs*

Site: United Way of El Paso- BOOST
Network

Tonisea Yazzie-Frye

*Project: Public Health Marketing
Internship*

Site: Replenish IV Hydration & Vitamin
Therapy (marketing department)

Khenyan Wilcox*

*Project: Opioid Overdose Prevention
Program Evaluation*

Site: Arizona Department of Health Services

Health Behavior Health Promotion – Online

Nikolina Antunovic*

*Project: Evaluating HIV Programs:
An External and Internal Review of
Compliance with Best Practices*

Site: The University of Arizona College of
Medicine - Phoenix

Sherri Chapman

*Project: Assessing and Improving
Pneumonia Vaccination in Diabetic
Alaska Native Youth: A culturally
sensitive approach*

Site: Southcentral Foundation

Gloria Cota Aguirre*

Project: Strengthening Pathways to Healthcare: Med-Start Curriculum Development & Evaluation

Site: Med-Start Summer Careers Program

Cristina Greenberg

Project: Insight to Impact: Bridging Technology and Family Engagement to Improve

Site: Easterseals Blake Foundation

Maria Kirley

Project: Alzheimer's Disease in Arizona: A Public Health Perspective on Programs, Policies, and Future Recommendations

Site: Arizona Department of Health Services

Maria de Fatima Nunes*

Project: An Assessment of the Effectiveness of a 12-Month Diabetes Prevention Program

Site: The University of Arizona Cooperative Extension

Frances Flavienne Angeles Villatuya*

Project: Musculoskeletal Low Back Injuries with Resident Care Aides in Long-Term Care Facilities

Site: Mercy McMahon Terrace

Health Services Administration – Online

Laurel Keane Stempak*

Project: Health and Wellbeing in the Built Environment

Site: University of Arizona Institute on Place, Wellbeing & Performance

Kassandra Danielle Silva*

Project: State Health Policy Differences and Variations in Epinephrine and Allergy Training: Research and Application at Kyah Rayne Foundation

Site: Kyah Rayne Foundation

Dirk Timmerman*

Project: Quality Improvement

Site: University of Arizona Cooperative Extension Diabetes Prevention Program

Camryn Wellmann*

Project: Sleep Health Literacy in Nogales, AZ

Site: UA Sleep and Health Research Program

Deshawna Yazzie*

Project: Improving Asthma Care Systems On The Navajo Nation: A Community-Driven Approach To Evaluation, Policy, And Quality Improvement

Site: The University of Arizona's Asthma and Airway Disease Research Center (A2DRC)

Public Health Practice – Global Campus

Mohammed Abdulllah

Dual Degree: MPH, Gulf Medical University (GMU)

Project: Assessing Health Inequities and Developing Culturally Competent Patient Education Tools for Elderly Hospital Patients in Sharjah, UAE.

Site: Thumbay Medical and Dental Specialty Center

BACHELOR GRADUATES

Bachelor of Arts (BA)

with Internship Sites

Health & Wellness

Lydia Pongratz

Site: Grant Proposals for The Kyah Rayne Foundation.

Bachelor of Science (BS)

with Internship Sites

Environmental & Occupational Health

Alexis Benaitis

Site: Davis-Monthan Air Force Base - Health Promotion

Hannah Ketchum

Site: Tucson Electric Power

Leidy Wells

Site: UA WEST EJ Center

Global Health

Adel Al Dossari

Site: OIC (Organization of Islamic Cooperation)

Robyn Danielle Tagle Almario

Site: Arizona Respiratory Neurophysiology Lab

Jackson Kloes

Site: Conversations to Remember

Emily Worrall

Site: The African Girl Foundation

Amanda Lo

Site: ZFCPHP / Healthy 2B Me Summer Camp

Health Promotion

Keiley Vanderlin

Posthumously

In Memoriam — We honor the memory of Keiley Vanderlin. Their dedication to public health will continue to inspire us.

Ezdna Cazares

Site: Children's Advocacy Center

Riley Cleveland

Site: Conversations to Remember

Meghan Beatty

Site: Center for Transformative Interprofessional Healthcare

Bria Johnson

Site: UAHS Med-Start

Shaniqua Campus

Site: Hopi Health Care Center - Indian Health Service

Gabriella Matney

Site: El Rio Health Midwifery

Dorine Wion

Site: Faith Leads Health Care LLC

Health Systems Theory & Practice

Olivia Breheny

Site: YMCA of the Rockies / Camp Chief Ouray

Kylie Contreras

Site: Conversations to Remember

Aaron Loera**

Site: Developmental Screenings for Parents of Newborns with Easterseals Blake Foundation

Audrey Rose Wells

Site: Arizona Trauma Association

Divine Idahosa

Site: Arizona Trauma Association

Alexa Raudes

Site: Department of Distribution Plan

One Health

Alicia Mae Hall

Site: College Moxie

Orion Kitzmiller

Site: SWEHSC (Southwest Environmental Health Science Center)

Nicole Laabs

Site: Kyah Rayne Foundation

Public Health Practice

Sarah DeLeon

Site: Center for Transformative Interprofessional Healthcare

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

The Office of Student Affairs wishes you only the best of luck in all your future endeavors. Go forth and make good things happen! We will miss you!

Lyn Durán
Monica Muñoz
Andrea Gaub
Courtney Faryab
Anaiz Acosta

Ariel Shirley
Melissa Garcia
Nicole Johnson
Ashleigh Gagliano
Michael Tearne

Danielle Pilar McNair
Vanessa Perez
Kim Barnes
Erika Verduzco

Special thanks to...

Commencement and
Ceremonies Team
Grad Images

Centennial Hall Team
Green Things

Paula Hayes
Shipherd Reed

Our Wonderful MEZCOPH Volunteers

Selma Ajanovic
Mojisola Ajayi
Lydia Benitez
Shunrang Chin

Lovelyn Dodu
Chidera Ejike
Lilian Martinez
Precious Mastala

Ramon Muñoz
Kris Slaney
Raymond Yurika

ALUMNI RESOURCES



CONNECT WITH ALUMNI

Join our College of Public Health Alumni Group on LinkedIn and Facebook to see updates from alumni and the college.



[linkedin.com/
groups/1064557](https://www.linkedin.com/groups/1064557)



[facebook.com/
groups/mezcephalumni](https://www.facebook.com/groups/mezcephalumni)



EXPLORE OUR ALUMNI WEBSITE

Stay connected with the College, your fellow alumni, faculty, and current students.



[publichealth.arizona.edu/
alumni](https://publichealth.arizona.edu/alumni)



ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Get involved and make a lasting impact by joining our alumni council, hosting events, teaching classes, guest lecturing, and more.



[publichealth.arizona.edu/
alumni/engagement](https://publichealth.arizona.edu/alumni/engagement)

CONNECT WITH US

We want to know what you're working on! Stay connected with us to discover opportunities for mentorship, teaching, and joining regional alumni groups.

Let's keep building our community together!

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!



Amber Richmond, MA'18
*Manager, Alumni & Student
Strategic Initiatives*
amrichmond@arizona.edu

6,300+ alumni live, work, and make difference on:



50

states*

42

countries

6

continents

**including the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico*

DISCOVER THE POWER OF PUBLIC HEALTH
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Mel & Enid Zuckerman
College of Public Health

The University of Arizona
Mel & Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health

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EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

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Zhao Chen PhD '96, MPH '95

Associate Dean for Research

Paloma Beamer PhD

Associate Dean for

Community Engagement

Greg Wakefield

Director of Development



The Arizona Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health is the first nationally accredited college of public health in the state of Arizona, with campuses in Tucson and Phoenix.



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