

Zuckerman College of Public Health
CONVOCAATION



FEAL 20
24



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

WELCOME

December 21, 2024

Centennial Hall
Tucson, AZ

The University of Arizona
Mel & Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health
Fall 2024 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 Public Health Graduates
Doctor of Philosophy Graduates
Master of Science in Public Health Graduates
Master of Public Health Graduates
Bachelor of Arts Graduates
Bachelor of Science Graduates

Recessional

DEAR GRADUATES, FAMILIES, FACULTY, AND FRIENDS,

Welcome to the Winter 2024 Convocation of the Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health. Today, we gather to celebrate a momentous achievement in your lives—a culmination of hard work, perseverance, and a commitment to advancing the health and well-being of others.



Graduates, you stand on the brink of a new chapter, equipped with the tools and knowledge to confront the challenges of today and shape a healthier tomorrow. Your journey through our college has been one of learning, growth, and discovery. You have explored innovative solutions, championed health equity, and demonstrated a steadfast dedication to making a difference in communities near and far.

As you transition from students to alumni, remember that the mission of public health calls for collaboration, compassion, and bold action. Whether you are leading research, advocating for policy changes, or working directly with communities, you have the power to create meaningful change. Your unique perspectives and skills are needed now more than ever.

To the families, friends, faculty, and staff who have supported our graduates on this journey: thank you for the encouragement and guidance that have made today possible. Your belief in their potential has helped them reach this extraordinary milestone.

Graduates, as you step into this next phase of your career, take pride in what you've accomplished and remain committed to your purpose. The Zuckerman College of Public Health will always be your home, and we will continue to celebrate your success as you forge your path forward.

Congratulations, Winter 2024 graduates! You inspire us with your dedication, resilience, and vision for a healthier world.

Bear Down and go make a difference!

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.

Mei-Li Ortega

Tierney Ruppel

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.

Patrick Halvorsen

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.

Jersey Reyes Orias

Ana Zeledon

Undergraduate Academic Honors

Undergraduate students recognized below have achieved academic excellence in their studies, based on the grade point averages going into the spring 2022 semester.

SUMMA CUM LAUDE

Meaning with highest great honor—gold honor cord

Awarded to candidates whose grade point average is 3.90 or higher

Tierney Ruppel

Harrison Brown

MAGNA CUM LAUDE

Meaning with high praise and honor—red honor cord

Awarded to candidates whose grade point average is 3.75 or higher

Jordana Albanese

Myla Gonzalez

CUM LAUDE

Meaning with praise or honor—blue honor cord

Awarded to candidates whose grade point average is 3.500 or higher

Anahy Fernandez

Victoria Fabela

Carolina Robles

Mei-Li Ortega

Brooklyn Swearingen

Faridat Mustapha

Maranda Fellows

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.

GRADUATE AMBASSADORS

Maiya Block Ngaybe

Sage Vu

Brianne Cartageña

UNDERGRADUATE AMBASSADORS

Patrick Halvorsen

Mei-Li Ortega

DOCTORAL GRADUATES

Doctor of Public Health (DrPH)

with Dissertation Topics

Maternal & Child Health

kim peace-tuskey

Topic: Supporting the Well-being of Women in the YWCA Southern Arizona Communities: A Community-based Participatory Research Approach for the Identification of Women's Strengths and Needs in the Aftermath of COVID-19.

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

with Dissertation Topics

Biostatistics

Drew Baldwin

Topic: Computational Methods for Biomedical Data

Environmental Health Sciences

Rietta Wagoner

Topic: Seasonal Comparisons of Kidney Outcomes, Heat Exposure, and Heavy Metal Exposure in a Mexican Agricultural Population

Health Behavioral Health Promotion

Maiya Block Ngaybe

Topic: A discrete choice experiment to assess preferences for a future preventative HIV vaccine among key populations in Uganda.

MASTER GRADUATES

Master of Science in Public Health (MSPH)

with Theses

Health Behavior Health Promotion

Bryon Hutton

Topic: Reconstructing body image: a thematic synthesis utilizing insights from Queer, Trans, and Two-Spirit perspectives

Master of Public Health (MPH)

with Internship Projects and Sites

Environmental & Occupational Health

Jersey Reyes Orias

Track: Industrial Hygiene

Project: Corporate Industrial Hygienist Internship Report

Site: Hexcel Corporation

Epidemiology

Brianne Cartagena

Project: Historical Racist Covenants and Current-Day Inequalities in Multiple

Environmental Exposures in Tucson, AZ

Site: Student Transformative Experiences

to Progress Undergraduate/Graduate

Professionals (STEP-UP)

Wadana Hamzazai

Project: Barriers To Cervical Cancer Screening Among Women Living

With HIV In Jos, Nigeria: Identifying

Challenges And Sustainable Solutions

Site: Global Health Equity Scholars (GHES)

Fellowship at the University of Arizona

Sage Vu

Project: Redefining Arizona's Older Adult Community Engagement: Precision Aging

Network (PAN)

Site: Precision Aging Network (PAN)

Family Child Health

Cheryl Nguyen

Project: Transformative Journeys: Fostering Health and Well-Being at the Healthy 2B Me Camp

Site: Healthy 2B Me Summer Camp

Global Health

Omozusi Guobadia

Project: 2024 Arizona Farmworker Enumeration Profiles Study

Site: Larson Assistance Services

Health Services Administration

Christina Kim

Project: Transforming Patient Care: Welcome and Discharge Folders

Site: University of California, Irvine Medical Center (UCI Health)

Public Health Practice

Jennifer Strozewski

Project: Integration of HIV Care and Cervical Cancer Screening in Nigeria

Site: Jos University Teaching Hospital, Global Health Equity Scholars

Applied Epidemiology - Online

Sarah Barrales

Project: Community-Based Women's Well-Being Study: Addressing Health Equity in Southern Arizona During the COVID-19 Era.

Site: The University of Arizona MEZCOPH & YWCA of Southern Arizona

Laurel Burnham

Project: Hospital Acquired Pneumonia (HAP) and Ventilator Associated Events (VAE) in the COVID-19 Pandemic, and Implementation of Nasal Decolonization in Patients in the ICU.

Site: Northwest Medical Center

David Contreras

Hospitalizations Due to Heat Illnesses in Maricopa County, Arizona from 2017-2023: Occupational or Recreational Activities Among Other Factors.

Site: Maricopa County Department of Public Health

Deirda Goldtooth

Project: Implementation Plan for Indigenous Youth Councils in New Mexico.

Site: Notah Begay III Foundation

Daniel Jones

Project: Effects of Clinic Redesign on Imaging Waiting Times in Academic Ophthalmology.

Site: UC Davis Department of Ophthalmology

Rachana Lankapalli

Project: Genetic Variants and Environmental Risk Factors in Age-Related Macular Degeneration: Analyzing the Impact of Environmental Exposures on Gene Expression.

Site: Retina Foundation of the Southwest - Remote

Ana Zeledon

Project: Assessing Social Determinants Of Health Impacting Human Papillomavirus Vaccination Among Hispanic Adults.

Site: University of Arizona

Health Behavior Health Promotion - Online

Shelby Vela

Project: Exploring the feasibility of Community Health Workers (CHWs) in Cooperative Extension at the University of Arizona.

Site: School of Nutritional Sciences and Wellness at University of Arizona

Health Services Administration - Online

Kelly Akers

Project: Associated Relationship Between Babywearing Quantity Up to 6 Months of Age and Mother/Child Outcomes.

Site: Arizona State University

Christopher Michael

Project: Improving Access to Dialysis Transportation for Rural Arizonans.

Site: National Kidney Foundation of Arizona

Madelyn Hardy

Project: Establishing a Medical Reserve Corps in the Northeast Tri Counties of Washington State.

Site: Northeast Tri County Health District

Antoinette Toya

Project: Developing Skills in Financial Health Assessments and Grant Writing with the Kyah Rayne Foundation Budget.

Site: Kyah Rayne Foundation

BACHELOR GRADUATES

Bachelor of Arts (BA)

with Internship Sites

Health & Wellness

Jessica Martin

Site: WKY football coaches' wives group for supporting mothers

Bachelor of Science (BS)

with Internship Sites

Environmental & Occupational Health

Bara'a Khalid Alqahtani

Site: ELFA Refugee and Youth Empowerment

Alexandra Jamili

Site: Kyah Rayne Foundation

Mei-Li Ortega

Site: MEZCOPH, Academic Health Departments

Juliana Quiroga

Site: UArizona WEST Environmental Justice Center

Emma Maria Saenz

Site: Specialty Consulting, Inc.

Gabriel Scott-Buechler

Site: American University Healthy Schools Healthy Communities

Global Health

Victoria Fabela

Site: Participatory Evaluation Institute, AZ Prevention Research Center

Anahy Fernandez

Site: UArizona Sonoran Center for Excellence in Disabilities

Peyton Jacks

Completing internship in Spring

Brooklyn Swearingen

Site: International Rescue Committee

Health Promotion

Hassan Ahmed Hassan Alasmari

Site: Arizona Trauma Association

Myla Gonzalez

Site: Autism Society for Southern Arizona

Sophia Lespron

Site: The Garden Kitchen

Faridat Mustapha

Site: UAHS Office of Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Med-Start Program

Devon Weinreich

Site: UArizona Cancer Center Skin Cancer Institute

Alina Zhovniriuk

Site: Arizona Trauma Association

Health Systems Theory & Practice

Jordana Albanese

Site: YMCA Long Island

Patrick Halvorsen

Site: WellBeing Institute

Nicole Hart

Site: College Moxie

Dylan Ibarra

Site: Conversations to Remember

Carolina Robles

*Site: MEZCOPH Primary Prevention
Mobile Health Unit*

Olivia Scherer

Site: Arizona Trauma Association

One Health

Maranda Fellows

Site: UArizona College of Nursing

Tierney Ruppel

Site: US Air Force

Tia Washburn

*Site: UArizona Asthma & Airways
Disease Research Center*

Quantitative Methods in Public Health

Harrison Brown

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
Ashleigh Gagliano
Anaiz Acosta

Courtney Faryab
Nicole Johnson
Makele White
Michael Tearne
Mariah Albertie

Vanessa Perez
Abba Versace
Kim Barnes
Yulianna Noriega

Special thanks to...

Commencement and
Ceremonies Team
Grad Images

Centennial Hall Team
Green Things

Paula Hayes
Shipherd Reed

Our Wonderful MEZCOPH Volunteers

Natalie Bedolla
Joy Caron

Ramon Muñoz
Amber Richmond

Bianca SantaMaria

Volunteer Student Ambassadors

James Hollister
Nick Marcell

Mon Lacea
Saranya Madira
Katelyn Chhuon

Jessica Noperi
Oluchi Kanma-Okafor

FUEL WONDER

THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

EXPLORE OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND DISCOVER HOW YOU CAN CREATE IMPACT!



Scan the QR code with the camera on your mobile device or visit us at publichealth.arizona.edu/give-now

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Mel & Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health

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



TUCSON CAMPUS

Drachman Hall



PHOENIX CAMPUS

Phoenix Bioscience Core

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