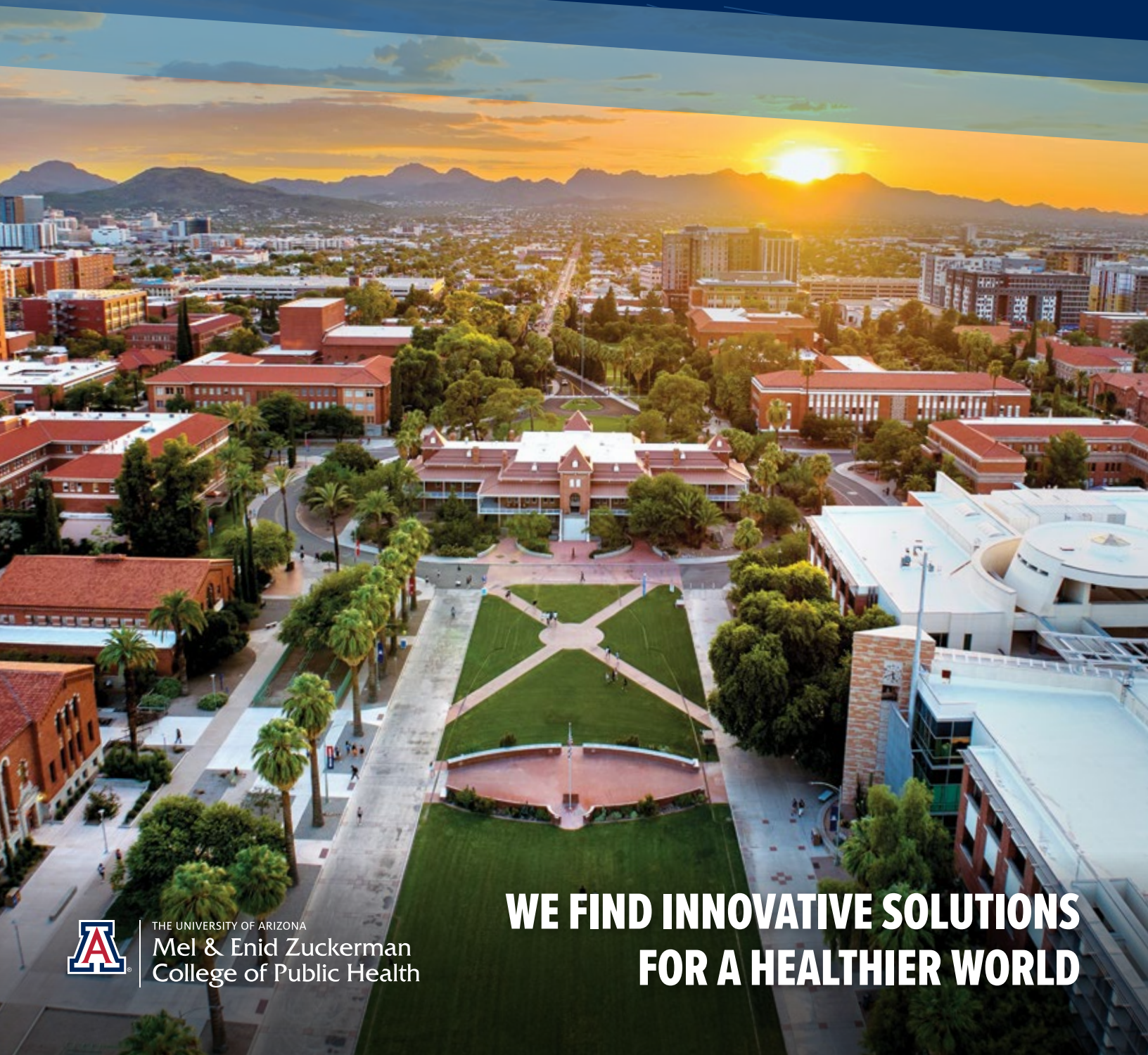


UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
MEL & ENID ZUCKERMAN COLLEGE OF

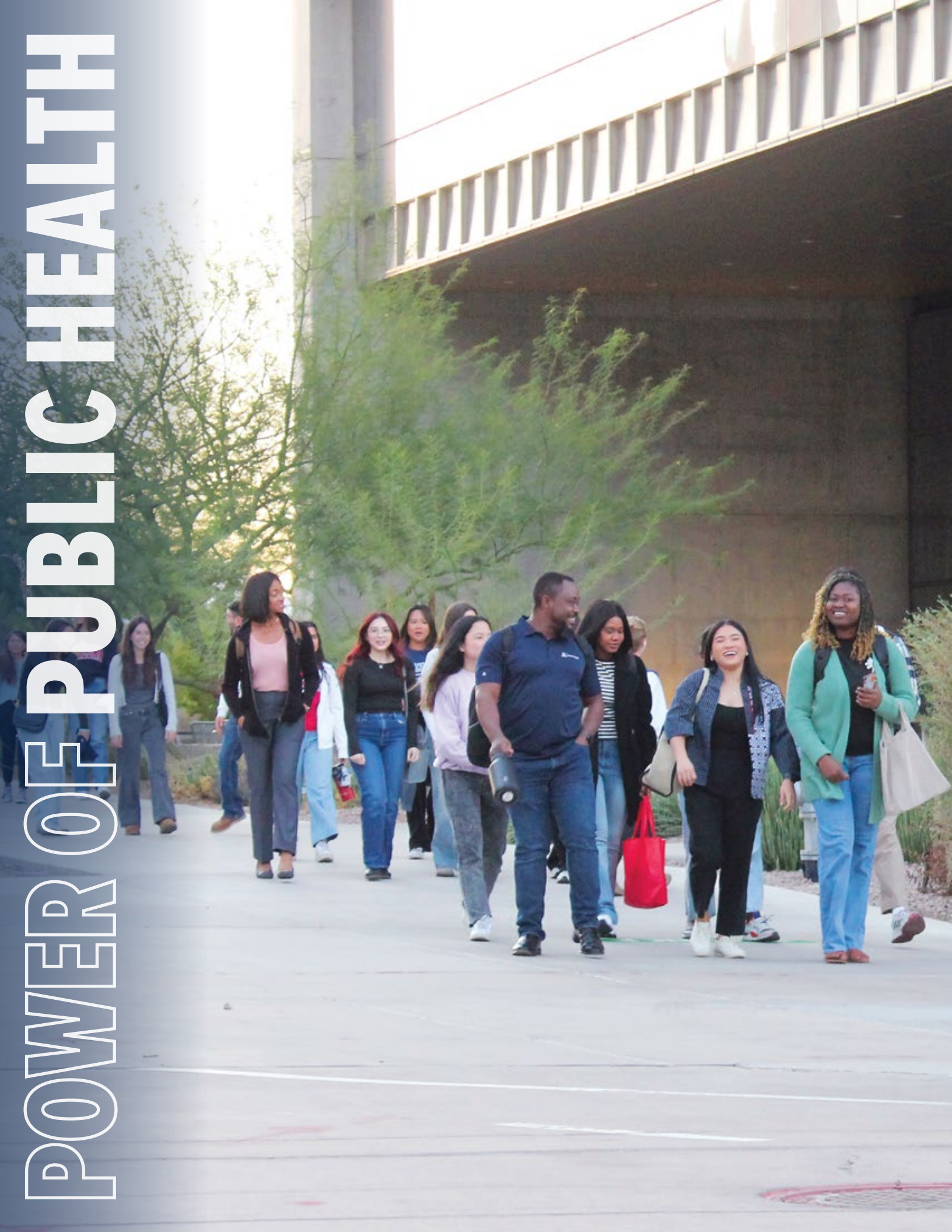
PUBLIC HEALTH

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



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

**WE FIND INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS
FOR A HEALTHIER WORLD**



POWER OF PUBLIC HEALTH

DEAN'S MESSAGE



Greetings Friends,

Welcome to our 2024 Annual Report for the Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health! As we reflect on another year of growth and achievement at the college, we are proud of the progress we've made to address the health challenges faced by our communities. This year, we expanded our programs and partnerships, and we increased our services to many communities thanks to the passionate work of our students, faculty, and staff. Together, we are shaping the future of public health.

Our college community is deeply committed to advancing health promotion, wellness, and disease prevention as essential pillars of public health. Our programs are designed to empower individuals and communities with the tools and knowledge needed to lead healthier lives. Through education, research, and outreach we support long-term health and reduce the burden of chronic diseases. This dedication fuels our vision of a world where health and wellness are accessible to all.

Our students remain at the heart of everything we do in the college. This year, we saw the extraordinary commitment of our student body as they engaged in research, service, and advocacy to make a lasting impact on public health. Their passion, intelligence, and dedication inspire us all.

Research at the college has reached new heights, with faculty and students contributing to groundbreaking studies that address a range of public health issues. From climate change to mental health, our research is at the forefront of innovation. We are proud of the strides we've made and the partnerships we've built to further our research endeavors.

The college will launch the Ending Pandemics Academy in 2025, a beacon of hope in the fight against infectious diseases worldwide. The Academy will provide cutting-edge training and resources to prepare the next generation of global health leaders, empowering them to tackle emerging health threats with innovative digital tools and collaborative expertise.

This year, we are also excited to highlight two new programs that we know will make a profound impact on mental health and wellness through the arts:

- » **DREAM:** The DREAM program, a dance initiative for children, will promote physical and cognitive function in a fun and active way. Dance is a powerful tool to nurture the minds, bodies, and spirits of youth. By engaging children with dance, we invest in their cognitive growth, emotional intelligence, discipline, and cultural awareness to enhance wellness and social connection.
- » **WHOLISTIC:** The WHOLISTIC program integrates movement and the arts into a holistic approach to mental health for older adults. Through activities like Tai Chi and dance, participants experience the emotional, social, cognitive, and physical benefits of creative expression. These practices promote stress reduction, mood elevation, and a sense-of-belonging, all of which are vital for mental well-being.

Together, these programs embody our commitment to fostering a healthier, more vibrant mental health future across the lifespan through the transformative power of the arts.

None of our achievements would be possible without the generous support of our donors and alumni. Their commitment to the college has enabled us to expand our programs, enhance our research, and provide critical support to our students. We are deeply grateful for their continued dedication to our public health mission. Our alumni remain an essential part of our community, and their contributions help ensure that we continue to provide a transformative public health education.

As we navigate these tumultuous times, we remain steadfast in our commitment to health promotion, wellness, and disease prevention. We continue to be inspired by the collective work of our faculty, students, staff, donors, and alumni. Thank you for your continued support, dedication, and partnership!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Iman Hakim". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue circular background.




Iman Hakim, MD, PhD, MPH
Dean




Tucson Campus
 Drachman Hall
 1295 N. Martin Ave.
 P.O. Box 245163
 Tucson, Arizona 85724

Phoenix Campus
 Phoenix Bioscience Core
 550 E. Van Buren Street
 UA Phoenix Plaza Building 1
 Phoenix, AZ 85004

CONNECT WITH US

   @uazpublichealth

 bit.ly/linkedin-uazpublichealth

Dean, Zuckerman College of Public Health
 Iman Hakim, MD, PhD, MPH '94

Editor
 Shiphperd Reed

Photography
 Kate Gardiner
 Kris Hanning
 Noelle Haro-Gomez
 Shiphperd Reed
 Ann Garn

Art Director
 Paula Hayes

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2 Dean's Message

4 Pioneering Prevention: 'Ending Pandemics Academy' to launch in 2025

Our new 'Ending Pandemics Academy' will prepare the next generation of global health leaders to implement innovative digital methods in the fight against infectious disease.

5 We Prepare Our Students to Meet the Future

We prepare our students to work collaboratively and compassionately to meet the emerging health challenges of a rapidly changing world.

8 Arizona Center for Rural Health Builds Healthier Communities

Building on years of steady progress, the Arizona Center for Rural Health has significantly improved health services for millions of Arizonans in underserved communities.

9 We do research to find innovative health solutions

Our community-engaged research connects the people to the data, so together we can build a healthier, more equitable world.

11

5 Key Initiatives: Shaping the Future of Public Health

We have strategically focused our resources and ingenuity on five priority areas to meet emerging health threats and needs in a rapidly changing world.

21 Our Supporters Propel the Future of Public Health

Our supporters invest in the education of our students, and our students go on to invest their knowledge and ability in the health of the communities they serve, building a more equitable world.



Our Alumni Build a Healthier Future

Across the country and around the world, our alumni give their talent and time to run programs, deliver services, and shape policies that make a real difference in people's lives.

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 Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health

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LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT STATEMENT

We respectfully acknowledge the University of Arizona is on the land and territories of Indigenous peoples. Today, Arizona is home to 22 federally recognized tribes, with Tucson being home to the O'odham and the Yaqui. Committed to diversity and inclusion, the University strives to build sustainable relationships with sovereign Native Nations and Indigenous communities through education offerings, partnerships, and community service.



The Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health has held continuous accreditation from the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) since 2003 and is accredited through December 31, 2027.



ON THE COVER

Aerial view of the University of Arizona's main campus in Tucson, AZ

PIONEERING PREVENTION: 'ENDING PANDEMICS ACADEMY' TO LAUNCH IN 2025

In our interconnected world, a disease threat anywhere can quickly become a threat everywhere. Unless we identify and stop threats faster, it's only a matter of time before a new outbreak triggers an epidemic or pandemic. We must fortify our collective conviction – we can end pandemics.

Our college recently committed to a unique partnership that will prepare the next generation of global health leaders with the critical thinking skills and innovative mindset needed to protect our communities and economies from future pandemic threats: the *Ending Pandemics Academy*.



INNOVATIVE LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM BUILT ON DECADES OF EXPERIENCE

[Ending Pandemics](#) (EP), a non-profit focused on improving our ability to rapidly find, verify, and contain disease outbreaks, was created by the Skoll Foundation in 2012. Now the Ending Pandemics team will join the college to launch the Ending Pandemics Academy as part of the college's [Global Health Institute](#). This new home provides a platform for education and research that will expand on the innovative digital epidemiology programs developed by EP with global partners. The EP Academy will have an endowed chair in Jeff Skoll's name, reflecting the Skoll Foundation's ongoing commitment to global health.



ENDING PANDEMICS ACADEMY: OUR DOORS OPEN TO ALL IN 2025

Set to open in the Fall of 2025, the Ending Pandemics Academy will be a beacon of innovation and collaboration in the fight against infectious diseases. The Academy will serve students and faculty as well as healthcare and global health professionals from both the public and private sector with programs tailored to meet diverse needs and career goals. 🌐

WE PREPARE OUR STUDENTS TO MEET THE FUTURE

We prepare our students to become public health innovators. They learn to work collaboratively and compassionately to meet the emerging challenges of a rapidly changing world and build resilient communities.



STUDENTS AND COMMUNITIES BENEFIT FROM THE COLLEGE'S STRONG RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CDC'S 'EPIDEMIC INTELLIGENCE SERVICE' PROGRAM

The collaborative relationship between the college and the [Epidemic Intelligence Service \(EIS\)](#) program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has delivered lasting benefits for our PhD graduates, our students, and our communities in Pima County. Dr. Kate Ellingson, an EIS alumna, has mentored several of the college's PhD graduates who have earned selection with the EIS program. A globally recognized two-year postdoctoral program that equips early career health professionals with on-the-job training in field epidemiology, EIS gives recent graduates the frontline experience needed to work effectively as epidemiologists within both local and global public health systems.



TWO PUBLIC HEALTH PHD STUDENTS RECEIVE 'NATIVE PATHWAYS' RESEARCH AWARDS

Two of our PhD students, William Carson, MPH, (Ohkay Owingeh) and Zoe Eleni Demitrack, received [Native Pathways Graduate Research Awards](#) given by the University of Arizona's Agnese Nelms Haury Program in Environmental and Social Justice, to support their research on Indigenous topics and with tribal communities.



OUR STUDENT AMBASSADORS SHARE THEIR PASSION FOR PUBLIC HEALTH!

We are so grateful for our Student Ambassadors! We have an amazing team of [Undergraduate Ambassadors](#) and [Graduate Ambassadors](#) that volunteer their time and passion for public health to support the college. Our Student Ambassadors represent the college at more than 40 events annually, they serve as tour guides for prospective students, they attend middle school and high school events, and they share their experiences on social media to highlight our programs. Thank you Ambassadors for all that you do!



FIRST-GENERATION GRADUATES CELEBRATED AT PINNING CEREMONY

First-Generation public health students who graduated at the Spring 2024 Convocation were [presented with 'first-gen' recognition pins by faculty in a ceremony to honor and celebrate their achievements](#). First-generation students are the first in their families to graduate with college or graduate degree, and more than 100 first-generation public health students graduated in Spring 2024. Often these students go on to improve health and wellness in their own communities. It was an inspiring event for everyone who attended, and thanks to our Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for organizing!

COLLEGE MIXER BRINGS STUDENTS TOGETHER WITH FACULTY, STAFF, AND SERVICES

Our [2024 College Mixer](#) brought together students, faculty, and staff for an engaging afternoon filled with food, music, and connection. Organized by the college's Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, the event provided tables so that a wide range of campus clubs and organizations, from the Rural Health Professions program to the Southwest Environmental Health Sciences Center to Campus Health, were able to engage with our students and raise awareness. We were pleased to see so many from our college community join in the fun!





OUR GRADUATES USE THE POWER OF PUBLIC HEALTH TO FIGHT FOR CHANGE

Our students turn their compassion into action to build a healthier, more equitable world. As interns and volunteers, they apply their skills to help others by working on community programs and projects. 🌍



Kerry Johnson
MPH '24,
Health Behavior
Health Promotion

Powered by her passion for public health, Kerry contributed to many community-engaged programs that enhanced her educational journey.



Chanda Jones
BS '24,
Public Health,
One Health

With exceptional determination, Chanda earned her BS in public health and made hospital patients safer at the same time.

Sage Liu
BS '24,
Public Health,
Global Health

Sage found a passion for health equity that led her to serve the college and her community, and to pursue her MD as her next step.



Jaiden Singh
BS '24,
Public Health,
Health Systems
Theory & Practice

Jaiden's internship showed him how health policy impacts communities, and set him on a path to earn his law degree.



Cody Welty
MSPH/PhD '24,
Health Behavioral
Health Promotion

With a passion for adolescent mental health and suicide prevention, Cody Welty used public health tools to reach teens and communities.

Samantha Werts-Pelter
PhD '24,
Health Behavioral
Health Promotion

With a focus on serving the community, Samantha found opportunities to conduct impactful research projects and enhance the educational experience for other students.



ARIZONA CENTER FOR RURAL HEALTH BUILDS HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES

For decades, the Arizona Center for Rural Health (AzCRH) has worked tirelessly to deliver better health services to rural Arizona. Every year the AzCRH team brings in millions of dollars in grant funding for rural communities, and this year they hosted the 50th Annual Rural Health Conference in Flagstaff, Arizona!



7 WAYS THE ARIZONA CENTER FOR RURAL HEALTH HAS IMPROVED LIFE IN ARIZONA

We looked back on the many ways that the [Arizona Center for Rural Health](#), working in close collaboration with community partners, has made life and health better for rural Arizonans. Today, more Arizonans have medical insurance than ever before, tribal communities have support to build their healthcare workforce, and there are incentives for health providers who work in underserved communities. Check out the AzCRH website to [read the full story!](#)



AZCRH CELEBRATES 50TH ANNUAL ARIZONA RURAL HEALTH CONFERENCE!

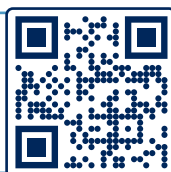
This year marked the [50th Anniversary of the annual Arizona Rural Health Conference](#) organized by the AZ Center for Rural Health. Participants celebrated all they have accomplished in recent decades to improve health care and services for rural citizens, and also collaborated strategically to plan for the future and provide better health services to all communities in Arizona.

AZCRH RECEIVES \$4.4 MILLION IN HRSA GRANTS TO BOLSTER HEALTH SERVICES IN OUTLYING COMMUNITIES

The [AzCRH](#) was awarded two grants by the [Health Resources and Services Administration \(HRSA\)](#) to support health services in rural communities which historically lag behind urban areas in health care access. The first grant will help fund the Arizona Rural Hospital Flexibility Program that supports Critical Access Hospitals in rural areas. The second grant will fund programs to recruit and train paramedics for rural emergency medical services (EMS) providers. 📍



Check out the new AzCRH Annual Report to learn more about all they do for health in Arizona. Scan the QR code or visit crh.arizona.edu.



WE DO RESEARCH TO FIND INNOVATIVE HEALTH SOLUTIONS

We use a community-engaged research approach that connects the people to the data, so we can ask better questions and find better answers. We know that research starts the process, providing data that we can translate into health priorities, programs, and policies that build a healthier, more equitable world.

FISH LAB DESIGNED TO SPAWN HUMAN HEALTH DISCOVERIES BENEFITS PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH

To advance human health research, [Dr. Frank von Hippel](#) established a “fish lab” where researchers can [study the threespine stickleback](#), a small yet remarkable fish that lives in diverse habitats and has played a significant role in the history of science. The stickleback is uniquely suited for research on evolutionary biology, behavioral studies, and ecotoxicology. The fish lab operates within the One Health research framework (integrating human, animal and environmental health) and gives researchers from diverse fields an exceptional opportunity to tackle interconnected health challenges.



NEW CDC GRANT FUNDS STUDY TO BOOST VACCINE ACCEPTANCE IN ARIZONA’S RURAL AND BORDER COMMUNITIES

Epidemiologist [Dr. Tomas Nuño](#) leads a [study designed to improve vaccination rates](#) and implement new strategies to break down barriers to vaccination in populations with limited access to health care. Designed to improve vaccine uptake in Arizona’s rural and border communities, the community-based participatory research study funded by the CDC will seek to understand how trust, socioeconomic factors, and misinformation affect vaccination rates in rural Arizona.



RESEARCH STUDY LINKS PESTICIDE EXPOSURE TO STILLBIRTH RISK

New [research data shows increased rates of stillborn births among people who lived near areas where pesticides were used](#) during their first trimester of pregnancy or pre-conception. The findings, published by Dr. Melissa Furlong and Dr. Paloma Beamer in the American Journal of Epidemiology, highlight the potential for pre-pregnancy exposures to affect reproductive outcomes, and also underscore the importance of considering individual pesticides because specific chemical compounds may pose unique risks.



CENTER FOR FIREFIGHTER HEALTH COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH CONTINUES TO GROW

\$3.8M GRANT WILL FUND STUDY OF FIREFIGHTER RISKS, INTERVENTIONS IN WILDLAND-URBAN BLAZES

Researchers from the college's Center for Firefighter Health Collaborative Research (CFHCR), working in close collaboration with fire service partners, will investigate the health effects of fire exposure in the unique burn space of the wildland-urban interface. [Dr. Jeff Burgess leads the study, funded by a \\$3.8 million grant from the](#)

[National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.](#)

Increasingly, wildfires extend into the wildland-urban interface, where burn fuels include vegetation, structures, and vehicles, a combination that results in greater smoke complexity and potential toxicity for firefighters, who are already at increased risk for health issues and cancers.



GRADUATE STUDENT USING DATA ANALYSIS TO PROTECT FIREFIGHTERS FROM CANCER


With several ongoing research studies, the CFHCR also provides excellent opportunities to train young researchers. One student, Tuo Liu, working towards his PhD in environmental health, investigates the molecular intricacies of the human body, seeking to understand the mechanisms by which fire exposure may lead to cancer. With the guidance of his mentor Dr. Melissa Furlong, [Liu's research utilizes big data and cutting-edge techniques including metabolomics](#) (a field that studies the small molecules produced during the body's metabolic processes) to find new ways to protect firefighter health.



RESEARCH ON THE ASSOCIATION BETWEEN ENDOMETRIOSIS AND CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE FUNDED BY NIH

Dr. Leslie Farland leads a [research study that aims to reduce cardiovascular disease for women with endometriosis](#), thanks to funding from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. Endometriosis, an often-painful gynecological disorder, affects approximately 11% of women. Evidence suggests that women with endometriosis may be at greater risk of cardiovascular disease later in life, and this study will evaluate the risk and provide guidance for interventions to improve women's health.

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF WOMEN'S HEALTH RESEARCH: THE 'WOMEN'S HEALTH INITIATIVE'

This year the NIH's Women's Health Initiative (WHI) celebrates 30 years of transformative research on postmenopausal women's health, data that has reshaped clinical practice. Our researchers have been part of WHI since 1993, recruiting participants from diverse populations. Drs. Cynthia Thomson and Zhao Chen among others have played key roles in the WHI, and fostered a culture of mentorship to advance women's health research across generations. 



5 KEY INITIATIVES: SHAPING THE FUTURE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

In our college, we envision a kinder, healthier, more equitable world. To get there, we need to focus our ingenuity and resources, and we've identified five priority areas of public health that will make the difference, our 5 Key Initiatives.

- 1 CLIMATE CHANGE & HEALTH**
- 2 INDIGENOUS HEALTH**
- 3 GLOBAL HEALTH**
- 4 MENTAL HEALTH**
- 5 DIGITAL EPIDEMIOLOGY, ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE & HEALTH INNOVATION**



5 KEY INITIATIVES CLIMATE CHANGE & HEALTH



WHEN CLIMATE CHANGE THREATENS HEALTH, WE FIND SOLUTIONS

We are determined to lead the public health response to climate change – the single biggest threat facing humanity – so we're taking action today and preparing for tomorrow.

Our Southwest Center on Resilience for Climate Change and Health (SCORCH) leads the fight to keep Arizona healthy during extreme heat

Since it launched in 2023, our [SCORCH Center](#) (Southwest Center on Resilience for Climate Change and Health) has played a key role in helping Arizona respond to the dangers of extreme heat due to climate change. In collaboration with regional agencies and university partners, SCORCH Center researchers helped to lead the [Arizona Heat Planning Summit](#) where they developed an [Extreme Heat Preparedness Plan that was adopted by AZ Governor Katie Hobbs](#). The plan was featured by our researcher Dr. Heidi Brown during the [Governor's Arizona Heat Awareness Week](#).

SCORCH co-Directors Dr. Kacey Ernst and Dr. Mona Arora bring years of experience, and they are building a cross-disciplinary team of experts to identify climate threats and find solutions in Arizona and beyond.



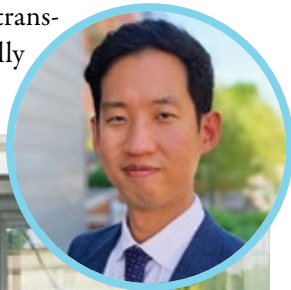
New MPH in Climate Change and Health Empowers Public Health Response to Climate Change

To prepare the public health professionals of tomorrow who will lead community responses to the health threats of climate change, the college [launched an MPH in Climate Change and Health](#). The degree program provides the crucial public health knowledge, data analysis skills, and program implementation abilities needed to respond to a range of climate-driven health risks.

This new program is one of only a few [CEPH-accredited](#) programs that focus on climate change response in the United States. Our program also benefits from the college's [Climate Change and Health Initiative](#), a portfolio of cutting-edge climate-focused research from our experienced faculty, including our NIH funded [Southwest Center on Resilience for Climate Change and Health](#) (SCORCH).

Dr. Chris Lim receives NIH grant to study connections between extreme heat, air pollution, and 911 EMS calls

Public health researcher [Dr. Chris Lim](#) received a \$1.6 million grant from the NIH's [National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences](#) to investigate whether environmental changes impact emergency medical services. Dr. Lim and his team will use air quality sensors, temperature measurements, and a national database of 911 emergency medical services calls to evaluate the links between environmental exposures, such as air pollution and temperature, and EMS transports for health emergencies, especially in vulnerable urban communities.



Public Health Taskforce Guides State on the Health Dangers of Extreme Heat

A new [statewide taskforce led by the SCORCH Center](#) works to raise awareness among health care providers and the public about the dangers of extreme heat. The Heat and Medications Taskforce, an initiative of the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS), includes faculty from the college working in collaboration with multidisciplinary experts from the UA Health Sciences and state and local agencies. The taskforce quickly developed the [Heat and Medications Information Sheet for Health Care Providers](#), a guide for health services providers and the public about the risks of ambient heat for patients taking certain medications.

College Collaborates with Regional Coalition to Analyze the Rise in Arizona's Heat Related Deaths

Policy experts from the college's Applied Health Policy Institute (AHPI) recently produced a report on the rise in health-related deaths in Arizona titled [Why Has Arizona's Heat Related Death Rate Increased Tenfold in Twenty Years?.](#) The report's analysis provides valuable insights and statistics to evaluate policy changes that could help address the health impacts of extreme heat in Arizona as our climate warms. The community coalition [Making Action Possible for Southern Arizona](#) (MAP) commissioned the report, which was compiled from data analysis by Slade Smith, Kirin Goff, and doctoral student Sonia Kaufman. Smith and Dr. Heidi Brown, also from the college, presented at a subsequent MAP webinar titled [Arizona's Heat-Related Health Impacts](#). 🔑





WE PREPARE THE NEXT GENERATION OF INDIGENOUS HEALTH LEADERS

We are dedicated to training the next generation of Indigenous health leaders. In close collaboration with our longstanding Native partners, and with an emphasis on culturally responsive and community-driven health practice, we are building the public health workforce in tribal communities.



Faculty Spotlight
Stephanie Russo Carroll
DrPH '15, MPH '01
Ahtna

Dr. Stephanie Russo Carroll has become a world leader in Indigenous Data Governance.

College promotes Indigenous Data Governance through NSF grant and national summit meeting

In April 2024 the [U.S. Indigenous Data Sovereignty & Governance Summit](#) brought together Indigenous scholars, Tribal leaders, data practitioners and allies in Tucson for a forum dedicated to moving Indigenous self-determination on data governance forward. Dr. Stephanie Russo Carroll (Ahtna), a world leader in Indigenous Data Governance (IDGov), helped to organize and lead the Summit and continues to advance [the IDGov movement for Indigenous Peoples](#) to exercise their sovereign rights to control the collection, application and use of data about their citizens, lands and cultures. A great way to learn about the topic is to watch Dr. Carroll's TEDxUARizona talk about Indigenous Data Sovereignty.

In a clear sign that the principles of Indigenous Data Governance will guide future data applications, the [National Science Foundation \(NSF\)](#) funded a \$1.5 million grant to connect [groups of Indigenous Data Sovereignty advocates globally](#) who will protect the way Indigenous data is collected and used on a global scale. Dr. Carroll leads the project with Dr. Ibrahim Garba (Karaï-Karaï) to develop the worldwide network for Indigenous data protocols and practices.

Events organized by IndigiWellbeing program raise awareness about Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples and bring community together

Founded in 2021 as the country was emerging from COVID, the college's [IndigiWellbeing program](#) was launched by Dr. Felina Cordova-Marks (Hopi) in response to mental health challenges among students and community members. She envisioned a series of culturally grounded events that would build connection and a sense-of-belonging from an Indigenous perspective.

Coordinated by doctoral student William Carson (Ohkay Owingeh), the IndigiWellbeing program has hosted dozens of events that engage the campus community with Native artists, guides, experts, and healers to build cultural connection and belonging.

In May 2024, IndigiWellbeing organized [two events to raise awareness about the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples](#) – a Symposium and a 5K Run/Walk – and both events brought the community together for conversation, connection, and healing. The presentations at the MMIP Symposium were recorded and you can watch them on our Zuckerman College of Public Health YouTube channel.



Faculty Spotlight

Felina Cordova-Marks
DrPH '18, MPH '09, MSc
Hopi




Dr. Felina Cordova-Marks founded the IndigiWellbeing program at the College.



Our Graduate Certificate in Indigenous Health trains the tribal health leaders of tomorrow

Our [Graduate Certificate in Indigenous Health](#), taught entirely by Native faculty, was developed by public health experts who have worked extensively with tribal communities. The online Certificate, designed for working professionals, focuses on the health and wellbeing of Indigenous Peoples with an emphasis on Indigenous models of public health practice that are rooted in culture, language, identity, place and community history.

Native MPH Student Receives Award from 'Native Forward' to Fund Internship

Samantha (Sam) Enos, an MPH student in Epidemiology and a member of the Navajo Nation, [received an award from the non-profit Native Forward](#) that will fund her internship with the Navajo Epidemiology Center analyzing data from the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS). She encourages other Indigenous students to apply for funding through the [Native Forward Scholars Fund](#). 



WE PARTNER GLOBALLY TO PREPARE THE HEALTH LEADERS OF TOMORROW

The world faces unprecedented health challenges that require global solutions, from pandemics to environmental pollution to climate change. Our Global Health Institute (GHI) forges international partnerships for collaborative education and research to prepare the globally-minded public health leaders of tomorrow.



College leadership visits new partners at Universidad del Valle de Mexico, plans expansion of dual degree program

Dean Iman Hakim and Dr. Gaby Valdez, Director of Global Education for the college's Global Health Institute, [met in Mexico with leadership from the Universidad del Valle de México \(UVM\)](#) to continue building our partnership with UVM and to discuss the expansion of the dual degree program between the two institutions. This unique inter-professional dual degree program enables medical and other health sciences students from UVM to earn their BS in Public Health from the University of Arizona at the same time as their degree at UVM.



Study of infertility and health among women of Mexican heritage will collaborate with the Instituto Nacional de Salud Pública in Mexico

In a study led by Dr. Leslie Farland, University of Arizona researchers will collaborate with the Instituto Nacional de Salud Pública in Mexico, funded by a [\\$2.2 million grant from the National Institutes of Health](#), to explore the link between infertility and long-term health issues among Hispanic women of Mexican heritage. The cross-border research project will seek to identify Hispanic women at risk of developing chronic diseases who may benefit from early screenings or interventions.





In Peru, college meets with Universidad Peruana de Ciencias Aplicadas to advance dual degree plan

In May, Dean Iman Hakim, Dr. Gabriela Valdez, and AVP Justin Dutram [met with leadership from the Universidad Peruana de Ciencias Aplicadas](#) (UPC) in Lima, Peru. Representatives from both institutions discussed potential collaborations in the fields of public health and health sciences, and advanced plans for a dual degree BS in Public Health program that will launch in 2026.




Students in the GHI Scholars program travel abroad to work on public health research and programs

This past summer of 2024, nine [Global Health Institute Scholars](#) (GHI Scholars) pursued their passion for global health by working on research projects and implementing programs in other countries. They dedicated themselves to a range of health challenges, from environmental contaminants to healthy aging, across seven different nations.

The experiential learning provided by the GHI Scholars program gives students valuable knowledge and collaboration skills that prepare them for future research and leadership roles. Working in collaboration with both institutions and local residents, the GHI Scholars learn to transcend borders and adapt to regional cultures so they can contribute meaningfully to the communities where they practice.

Summer Program Engages Students from Mexico with Public Health in Arizona

A [summer program for students from the Universidad del Valle de México](#), organized by the college's Global Health Institute, hosted students from several different health profession programs to learn about healthcare in the United States. Through experiential learning and hands-on activities, participants explored a range of public and community health services, and also learned about public health education at the University of Arizona's campus in Tucson. 



WE PRIORITIZE MENTAL HEALTH ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

Today, our country is facing a mental health crisis, amplified by isolation and social media, with increasing rates of loneliness, anxiety, and depression. We must address mental health across the lifespan, from youth to older adults, with a proactive and preventive approach.

Mental health programs for youth build engagement and resilience

The current approach to behavioral health care in the United States prioritizes one-on-one treatment focused on individuals who have a clinical diagnosis. This approach drastically limits the ability of community health providers to meet the needs of people whose level of psychological distress does not reach the diagnostic threshold. As a result, many people, especially youth, who experience high levels of stress and anxiety are left without appropriate psychological support and miss the opportunity for early intervention and prevention.

To address these mental health challenges in youth, the college's [Zuckerman Family Center for Prevention and Health Promotion](#) established several [school and community programs](#) that provide support and guidance to children, teens, and mothers.



Growing Girls

An after-school psychosocial intervention program for 5th and 6th grade girls, Growing Girls works to improve self-esteem and social connection by teaching girls positive thinking skills, conflict-resolution, assertive communication, and how to ask for help.

Guys After-School Mentorship & Education (GAME!)

An after-school psychosocial intervention program for 5th and 6th grade boys, GAME provides lessons about growing up male, stereotypes, media messages, peer pressure, puberty, and responsibility.



Healthy Schools Tucson

This in-school program for elementary school students teaches stress management, nutrition and healthy foods, the benefits of physical activity, sleep strategies, wellness and self-care.

Safe Space (Espacio Seguro)

A mental and emotional wellness program for Latina mothers and caregivers and their teenage children, Safe Space promotes overall wellness, self-care, boundaries, healthy family communication, and technology and media safety.

Summer: Healthy 2B Me Camp

A wellness camp for underserved youth, ages 7-10, in the greater Tucson area, the Healthy 2 B Me summer camp is designed to increase public health knowledge around wellness, nutrition, physical activity, and positive lifestyle choices related to self-care, kindness, and healthy relationships.

Summer: Mamas y Hijas (Mothers and Daughters)

This program offers a holistic, comprehensive, and culturally sensitive sexuality education intervention for Latina mothers and caregivers, and their daughters ages 9-13.



Dance program for older adults enhances belonging and emotional stability

To promote mental health among older adults, the college is developing a new Tai Chi and dance program called [Wellness, Health, and Opportunities for Living Successfully Through Innovative and Creative Arts](#), or WHOLISTIC for short.

The WHOLISTIC Program uses physical movement (Tai Chi & Dance) to promote emotional, social, mental, and physical integration for older adults. Both a physical and cognitive workout, dance programs bring people together to reduce stress, alleviate social isolation and loneliness, and promote healthy behaviors. Group engagement with the arts has been shown to contribute to greater social cohesion, community well-being, and health equity.


Dance program for kids promotes mental wellbeing

The college is developing an innovative new dance program designed to promote mental health for children called [Dance, Resilience, Empowerment for Active Mental Health and Wellbeing](#), or DREAM for short.

A powerful means of self-expression and a celebration of culture, dance also significantly enhances brain function. Recent studies have shown that engaging in dance has unique and lasting benefits for the brain, especially for young people. When we engage children with dance, we are investing in their cognitive development, emotional intelligence, and mental well-being while we also build a sense of community and belonging that is crucial for emotional stability.



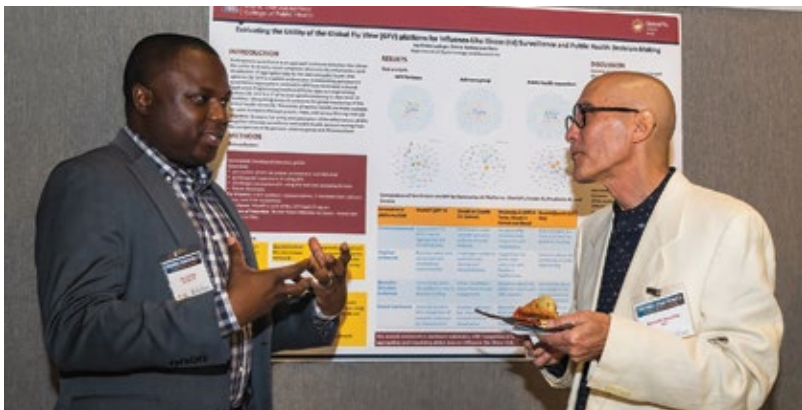
Professor brings public health perspective to substance use disorder and helps students combat overdoses

Assistant research professor [Dr. Bridget Murphy specializes in behavioral health and focuses on substance use disorder](#) as a public health concern. In her teaching, she guides students to address the stigma around substance use as well as the full continuum of care – prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery. Dr. Murphy also supports the [student group Team Awareness Combatting Overdose \(TACO\)](#) that recently increased the distribution of Narcan kits around the University of Arizona. 

DIGITAL EPIDEMIOLOGY, ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE & HEALTH INNOVATION

WE HARNESS NEW DIGITAL TOOLS TO TACKLE EMERGING HEALTH THREATS

When we discover new ways to use digital tools like smartphones, mobile apps, wearable devices, and Artificial Intelligence (AI) we can track, prevent, and stop the spread of disease faster and smarter, and keep communities safe.



Our ‘Global Flu View Spark’ program funds students to expand the digital disease tracking platform

The ‘Global Flu View Spark’ program funds students to work on projects that expand or enhance the impact of the ‘Global Flu View’ digital disease tracking platform. Three students in the first cohort of the Spark program delivered promising projects during the summer of 2024, with one student working in the Philippines and another in Nigeria.

The Global Flu View platform was developed by Dr. Onicio Leal and the team at the nonprofit [Ending Pandemics](#). In 2023, the [GFV platform was awarded to the University of Arizona](#) to become a program at the Global Health Institute in the Zuckerman College of Public Health. GFV continues to serve its purpose as a participatory disease surveillance platform globally, and at the same time provides a unique public health education and research opportunity within the college. Ending Pandemics will become part of the Zuckerman College of Public Health at the University of Arizona in 2025.

Engagement event with global disease prevention innovators ‘Ending Pandemics’ launches new partnership with Zuckerman College of Public Health

This fall the college hosted an engagement event titled ‘[Ending Pandemics: A Global Health Revolution](#)’ to announce our new partnership with the groundbreaking global disease prevention nonprofit ‘Ending Pandemics.’ The Ending Pandemics team has implemented many international health programs using digital tools, and they will now bring their experience and expertise in Digital Epidemiology to launch a new education and research program at the University of Arizona: the Ending Pandemics Academy.



College develops two new Digital Health courses to train students in emerging technology

Dr. Onicio Leal brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in digital health projects globally, and he is now preparing two courses focused on different aspects of Digital Epidemiology. The curriculum will explore new digital tools, novel data sources, and digital platforms that are integral to public health in our modern era. Students will examine how digital data sources from the Internet, social media, and mobile technologies are reshaping the way we track, predict, and control the spread of disease, and how digital tools offer powerful opportunities to improve health outcomes.

Dr. Leal recently presented at the AI Bootcamp conference organized by Singularity Brazil focused on practical experiences in Artificial Intelligence. He focused on AI & Health applications and gave a talk titled “Exploring the AI frontiers: How the present is shaping the future of health,” using concrete application examples from his research projects in Kenya, Ivory Coast, Switzerland and Malawi.

Resilience Informatics Workshop fosters collaboration to meet climate-driven health challenges

A [Resilience Informatics Workshop](#) hosted by the college brought together experts from across the university and many different fields to discuss the current and potential use of modern informatics techniques (digital data tools) that can make communities more resilient. As new health challenges emerge, resulting from climate change, pandemics, and man-made disasters, informatics offer unique opportunities for rapid, informed response programs that can safeguard lives and stop the spread of disease. Dr. Kacey Ernst, Dr. Mona Arora, and doctoral student Maiya Ngaybe collaborated with colleagues in UA Health Sciences to organize the workshop. 🌍



OUR SUPPORTERS PROPEL THE FUTURE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

When our supporters invest in the education of our students, they're not just helping individual students, they're also helping the communities served by our graduates. When you give, your generosity has a 'ripple effect' that creates a healthier, more equitable world for all. Join us to shape the future!



OUR 5 KEY INITIATIVES ARE ALSO OUR 5 FUNDING PRIORITIES

You saw our 5 Key Initiatives earlier in this 2024 Annual Report. They keep us focused on the future of public health. Those same strategic areas are also our [5 Funding Priorities](#). Your gifts help create solutions to our most critical public health challenges through education, research, community collaboration, and innovation!

Our 5 Strategic Priorities:

- 1 CLIMATE CHANGE & HEALTH**
- 2 INDIGENOUS HEALTH**
- 3 GLOBAL HEALTH**
- 4 MENTAL HEALTH**
- 5 DIGITAL EPIDEMIOLOGY, ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE & HEALTH INNOVATION**

Among the 5 priorities, each one interconnects with the others. For example, the strain of Climate Change shocks like heatwaves, wildfires, and drought will impact Mental Health, Global Health, and Indigenous communities. Our education and expertise in each priority area will enhance and amplify our abilities to solve challenges in the other areas.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES: WHEN YOU SUPPORT EDUCATION, YOU CHANGE THE WORLD

We are investing in our students through real-world education and research opportunities to prepare the next generation of innovative, adaptable public health professionals to tackle emerging health problems and create meaningful change. We are [deeply grateful to our donors for all the scholarships, fellowships, and internships](#) that help to provide a university education for dedicated and deserving students.

Our country needs more public health PhD graduates. As the population ages, so does our public health workforce, leaving a shortage of researchers and educators in higher education and leadership roles – here at our college and beyond. We are working to build funding support for our PhD students, many of them with young families, to meet the future needs of the public health workforce.



Explore our strategic priorities, scholarship opportunities, and discover how you can create impact!
Scan the QR code or visit publichealth.arizona.edu/give-now.





2024 SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON UNITES DONORS AND STUDENTS TO CELEBRATE ACHIEVEMENTS

Thanks to everyone who joined us for our [2024 annual Scholarship Luncheon](#) to celebrate our supporters and our amazing scholarship students! We were delighted to see so many of you and connect in person. This annual gathering brings together our donors who fund scholarships with the students they support to remind all of us what we can achieve together.

Following introductions and remembrances from Dean Hakim, we heard inspirational stories from current scholarship students, including undergraduate student Brooke McKalip, doctoral student Sheryl Nelson, and MPH student Lady Dorothy Elli, about their educational journeys and the value of scholarship funding.



GRATITUDE FOR OUR COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD

Our [Community Advisory Board](#) (CAB) supports the mission of the College by raising awareness of the benefits of public health in the community, fundraising, and advocacy. This year, the CAB will support Mental Health across the lifespan, one of our 5 Key Initiatives. The members of the CAB include:

JoAnna Westcott

Chairwoman of the Board
President of Bill Westcott Inc.

Kate Breck Calhoun

Director of Sales and Marketing,
Tucson Convention Center

Robert Guerrero

Southern Arizona Outreach
and Constituent Services
Representative, Office of U.S.
Senator Mark Kelly

Will Humble, MPH, DrHC '15

Executive Director, Arizona
Public Health Association

Jan Konstanty

Business professional with
extensive experience in both
U.S. and international markets

Edye Riharb

Principal, Edye Riharb Design
Concepts
Agent, Long Realty Company

Lupita Murillo

Veteran journalist, Former KVOA News 4 Reporter

Christine Bracamonte Wiggs, MPH '02, MS '10, PhD '16

Staff Vice President, Community and Health
Advancement, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona
President, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona
Foundation for Community & Health Advancement

Amy Zuckerman, DHumL '23

Photographer, philanthropist, public health advocate

Nicole Zuckerman-Morris, JD

Executive Director, Zuckerman Family Foundation



Development Spotlight

Kurt Peterson leads business engagement for the college

We are all very pleased to welcome Kurt Peterson, our new Director of Corporate Engagement and Business Development for the college. Kurt's background as a business owner and philanthropist have enabled him to rapidly grow a network of regional companies and organizations who are ready to partner with the college and support our public health mission.

A LEGACY OF GIVING HAS CHANGED THE COURSE OF HEALTH

REMEMBERING DR. JAMES DALEN, TRANSFORMATIVE HEALTH LEADER FOR ARIZONA

Dr. James Dalen, cardiologist, beloved emeritus vice president of the University of Arizona Health Sciences, leading advocate to establish the Zuckerman College of Public Health, and transformative health leader for Arizona, passed away in January 2024. [We remember him gratefully](#) for all he did to improve health in Arizona. In 1997, Dr. Dalen inspired Mel Zuckerman to invest \$10M to establish the only college of public health in Arizona and the Southwest. We are forever grateful to Dr. Dalen for his vision that launched our college.

Dr. Dalen and his wife Priscilla established an endowment for the [James E. Dalen, MD, MPH Distinguished Lecture for Health Policy](#) in 2008 to honor Dr. Dalen's key role in establishing our college. The annual lecture is designed to introduce emerging ideas around public health challenges and policy issues, advanced by leading experts.



REMEMBERING DR. KENT CAMPBELL, MALARIA EXPERT AND GLOBAL HEALTH CHAMPION

Dr. Carlos “Kent” Campbell, esteemed public health physician, malaria expert, global health champion, and one of the first leaders for our College of Public Health, passed away in February 2024. [Kent was instrumental in the creation of the Zuckerman College of Public Health](#) at the University of Arizona. Following the college's accreditation in 2000, he served as Interim Dean of the College for two years.

To advance global health, Kent and Liz initiated the [Kent & Liz Campbell International Public Health Internship](#), created to assist exceptional Masters in Public Health (MPH) students who are dedicated to public health initiatives in global communities.

JEFF SKOLL ENDOWED CHAIR IN ENDING PANDEMICS ELEVATES THE COLLEGE

The *Jeff Skoll Endowed Chair in Ending Pandemics* will enable the college to recruit a visionary and experienced leader as the executive director of the newly established **Ending Pandemics Academy**. The endowed chair Professor will implement innovative tools for participatory surveillance and early detection of emerging health threats nationally and globally, and will oversee the training, research, and services of the newly established Ending Pandemics Academy. 🌐



OUR ALUMNI BUILD A HEALTHIER FUTURE

Across the country and around the world, our alumni give their talent and time to build a healthier, more equitable world. They work in communities, run programs, deliver services, and shape policies that make a real difference in people's lives. As our world changes and new health threats emerge, our alumni have the knowledge and experience they need to find solutions. Thank you alumni for all that you do!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2024 ALUMNI AND ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNERS!

Our alumni and community partners dedicate themselves to support the health of so many communities – locally, nationally, and globally – and with [these annual awards presented at Homecoming](#) we are proud to recognize their exceptional service to public health. We were delighted to see so many alumni, supporters, faculty, staff and students who [came together to celebrate our award winners and join the Homecoming festivities!](#)



Alumni Spotlight

Congratulations to our 2024 Alumna of the Year Award Winner!



Mary M.K. Foote, MD '07, MPH '05, currently serves as the Medical Director at the Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response in the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. As an infectious disease physician, she has had a long career working on public health with hospitals and the healthcare industry. She is a proud graduate of the dual MD/MPH degree program at the Zuckerman College of Public Health.



GLOBAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
Bojosi Gamontle PhD, MPH '08



PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
Kim Bourn



YOUNG PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
Tanya Payyappilly MD, MPH '19



Minneapolis, MI

DUAL MPH PANEL



Andrea Logue
JD '17, MPH '17
Associate General Counsel,
Arizona Health Care Cost
Containment System (AHCCCS)



Thu Pham
PharmD '21, MPH '21
Pharmacist,
Fort Yuma Health Center



Hayley Morte
MPH '18, MA '18
Public Health Analyst,
Centers for Disease Control and
Prevention Global Health Center



Jasper Puracan
MD '21, MPH '21, BS '16
Resident Physician,
Banner Health

CONNECTING ACROSS THE NATION: ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT IN 2024

In 2024, our college hosted alumni engagement events nationwide, connecting with alumni from Hawaii to Washington DC. Highlights included 'Coffee with the Dean' in Chicago, a 'Dinner with Wildcats' in Hawaii (featuring our VP of the Delta Omega Honorary Society Kirstin Lathrop, BS '12, MPH '17, CAPM), [our annual reception in Washington DC](#), and in October we gathered for a [reception at the APHA meeting in Minneapolis](#). Dean Hakim and our faculty, staff, and students were so pleased to connect with alumni at these events! Thanks to everyone for coming out.

RECENT UNDERGRADUATE PANEL



Cori Cantin
BS '20

Community Outreach Coordinator,
AZ Poison & Drug Information Center



Hiram Martinez
BS '19

Program Coordinator,
Equality Health



Shelby Norwood
BS '15

Food Safety/Sanitation Manager,
Aria/Vdara at MGM Resorts Int.

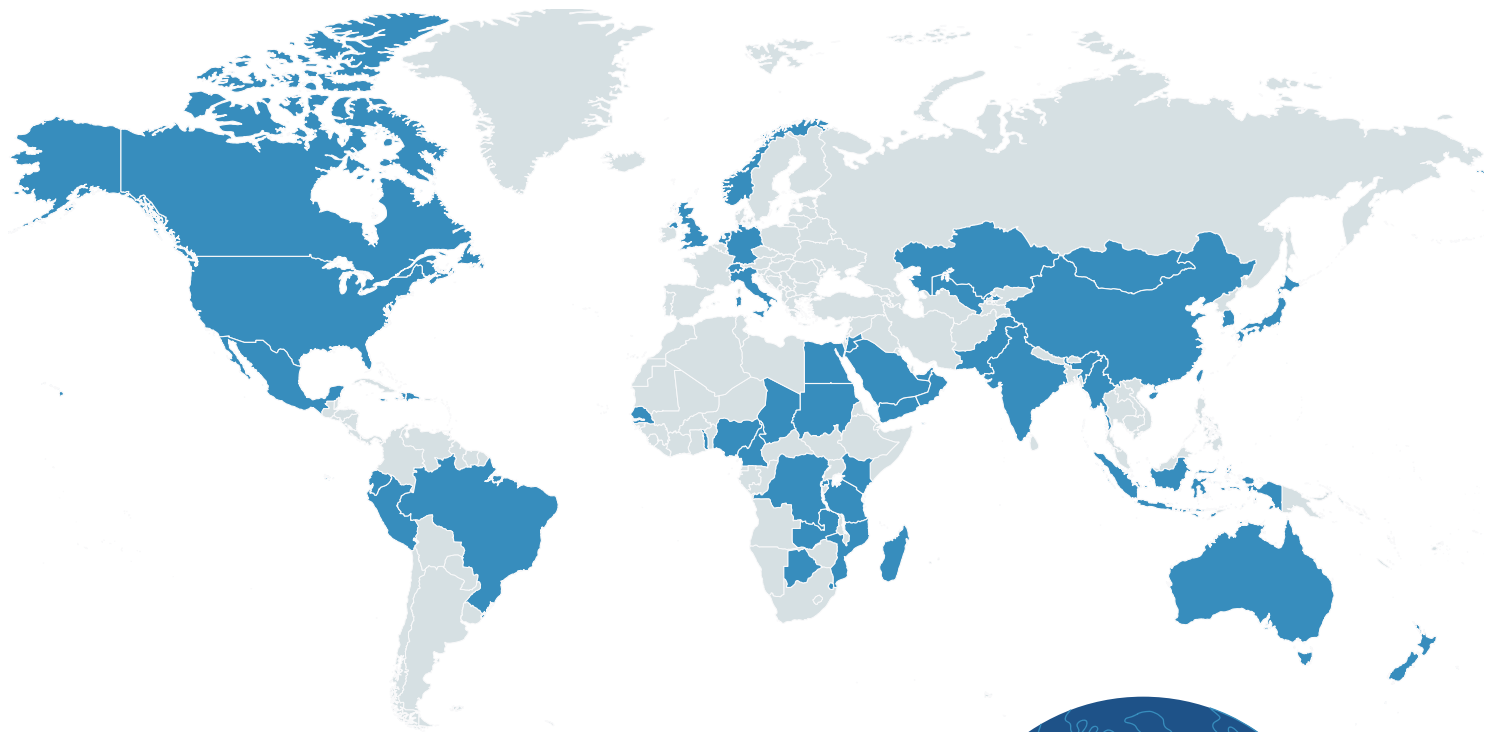
EMPOWERING FUTURE LEADERS: ALUMNI MENTORSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Our alumni play a vital role in supporting students by participating in professional development events. Recent graduates, dual degree program alumni, and Homecoming awardees dedicated their time to mentor students exploring diverse career paths, including those interested in our dual degree programs. The alumni career events this year included the [Recent Undergrad Alumni Career Panel](#), [Dual MPH Alumni Career Panel](#), and the Global Health Alliance's Global Alumni Panel.

RECENT ALUMNA LISA WOODSON, PhD '24, MPH '07, BS '03, PURSUES INNOVATIVE GLOBAL HEALTH RESEARCH

Dr. Lisa Woodson, who graduated with her PhD from the college in 2024, has worked on many global health projects, and as a graduate student [she served as an NIH Fulbright-Fogarty Scholar in Peru](#) where she worked on reproductive health issues with women and adolescent girls in the Amazon Basin. She has incorporated art into her global health research to discover new insights into communities, and in collaboration with other global health professionals, she [founded the project Beyond Global Health](#) that uses art and poetry to promote scientific inquiry and global health equity.





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

50
states*

42
countries

6
continents



**including the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico*



UPDATED ALUMNI WEBSITE MAKES IT QUICK AND EASY TO ENGAGE WITH THE COLLEGE

We are excited to unveil our [newly renovated alumni website](#), designed to enhance your connection with the college and other alumni! Explore a wealth of alumni story highlights, discover upcoming events, find engagement opportunities, and share your story about the impact you are making in the public health field.

On the website you'll see ways to stay connected through our social media platforms, learn about nominations for our chapter of the Delta Omega Honorary Society, and explore philanthropic support options that enrich alumni experiences.

For questions or more information about engagement opportunities, please contact Amber Richmond, our Manager of Alumni & Student Strategic Initiatives, at amrichmond@arizona.edu.

Stay connected with the College, find alumni resources and discover engagement opportunities. Scan the QR code or visit publichealth.arizona.edu/alumni.





THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

Mel & Enid Zuckerman
College of Public Health

1295 N. Martin Ave.
P.O. Box 245163
Tucson, Arizona 85724

550 E. Van Buren Street
UA Phoenix Plaza Building 1
Phoenix, AZ 85004

OUR STUDENTS

The Zuckerman College of Public Health strives for diversity, inclusion, and equity for our students, and in everything we do.



993

*Undergraduate
Students*



304

*MPH Students
41% Online*



140

*MS, PhD, DrPH
Students*