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CHHS July 2015 E-Newsletter,

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CHHS July E-Newsletter

IRH Wellness Outreach Takes Health Education to Worksite

**Original story available on WKU News. Please visit*

<https://wkunews.wordpress.com/2015/05/14/irh-outreach-2015/> to be taken directly to the story.

During the 2014-2015 academic year, students from WKU's [College of Health and Human Services](#) (CHHS) and staff at the [Institute for Rural Health](#) (IRH) provided more than 600 services at the J.M. Smucker Corporation in Scottsville as part of the IRH's worksite wellness outreach.

IRH staff, along with 28 baccalaureate nursing students, provided health screenings for Smucker employees including: blood pressure, lipid panel, blood glucose, hemoglobin A1C, bone density and BMI. Collaboratively, baccalaureate and graduate public health students developed and provided educational presentations during this time on topics including: oral health, breast cancer awareness, prostate cancer awareness, ergonomics, physical activity, healthy eating, and stress management. One such presentation, a PowerPoint on proper worksite ergonomics, was requested for continued use on-site via Smucker's telecommunications screens.

The health events provided at J.M. Smucker Corporation allow CHHS students a great opportunity to put into practice what they have learned in the classroom. Julia Tabor, the company's Registered Health Nurse, speaks highly of the corporation's commitment to employee health and wellness and strives to meet that commitment through the partnership with the IRH. She values disease prevention and health education within the worksite context. "I enjoy the opportunity to share with our future health providers an experience within an occupational health setting," Tabor said.

The IRH staff welcome the students that participate in IRH outreach each year recognizing the students provide unique and valuable contributions, new perspectives, most recent knowledge, enthusiasm and skill. Moreover, the students assist as the IRH seeks to improve the health of the community. The students served more than 150 Smucker employees, resulting in over 160 student engagement hours at one facility.

Learn more about the Institute for Rural Health's outreach at <http://www.wku.edu/irh/>.

Contact: Tracey Osborne or Matt Hunt, (270) 745-6948 or tracey.osborne@wku.edu or matthew.hunt@wku.edu



Students from WKU's College of Health and Human Services and staff at the Institute for Rural Health provided health screenings and educational presentations at the J.M. Smucker Corporation in Scottsville as part of the IRH's worksite wellness outreach.

Social Work Receives Grant to Enhance Community

Drs. Molly Kerby (Diversity & Community Studies) and Gayle Mallinger (Social Work) received a grant from the Kentucky Governor's Commonwealth Garden Initiative to revitalize, expand, and enhance the community garden at the Bowling Green Housing Authority. The purpose of the grant initiative is to encourage healthy eating and increase access to locally grown foods in Kentucky communities. The project will receive assistance for one year including seed/transplants and one-on-one consultation on the planning and implementation of best practices in local gardening and production of food. The garden will also be used for community education and demonstration in conjunction with a similar project at the Boys & Girls club funded by a WKU iRCAP grant during 2014-15.

Elizabeth Willenbrink and Nina Wells presented at the WKU IMPACT showcase sponsored by The ALIVE Center. They discussed their work with the community garden project at the Boys and Girls Club of Bowling Green. Both are Independent Study students with Dr. Gayle Mallinger in the Department of Social Work.

For more information, please contact Dr. Gayle Mallinger (gayle.mallinger@wku.edu).



Elizabeth Willenbrink at the WKU IMPACT Showcase





Garden Plot at the Bowling Green Housing Authority

ICD-10 Workshop a Success; Additional Sessions Scheduled

**Original story available on WKU News. Please visit*

<https://wkunews.wordpress.com/2015/05/14/icd-workshop-2015/> to be taken directly to the story.

Ninety-two physicians, coders, practice managers, and faculty learned more about the revisions to the International Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems on April 29 at the Knicely Conference Center. The workshop provided an overview of ICD-10, which is scheduled to start on Oct. 1.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, in conjunction with local agencies, are traveling throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky offering these ICD-10 sessions. To date, the event in Bowling Green has been the largest event throughout the state. The event was sponsored by the WKU Institute for Rural Health, South Central Area Health Education Center, the WKU College of Health and Human Services, Kentucky Office of Rural Health and the University of Kentucky Center of Excellence in Rural Health.

Participants were asked if they would be interested in attending a more in-depth workshop, and based on the large response, the South Central AHEC and the Institute for Rural Health will offer two workshops in August. Each workshop will be one day and provide greater detail of ICD-10. One session will focus on hospital use of ICD-10 and the other will focus on the needs of physician offices.

Learn more about outreach of the Institute for Rural Health and South Central AHEC by visiting their websites at <http://www.wku.edu/irh/> and <http://www.wku.edu/scahec/index.php>.

Contact: Matt Hunt, (270) 745-6948 or matthew.hunt@wku.edu; or Lucy Juett, (270) 745-3325 or lucy.juett@wku.edu



Ninety-two physicians, coders, practice managers, and faculty learned more about the revisions to the International Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems on April 29 at the Knicely Conference Center.

CHHS MHA Named One of Best Online Healthcare Administration Master's Programs

The CHHS MHA program was named one of the Best Online Healthcare Administration Master's Programs by OnlineMastersPrograms.org. Ranked #23 out of only 48 programs to make the list, OnlineMastersPrograms.org. uses a rigorous method to determine which schools will make the list. The CHHS MHA program excelled in a range of competency areas that included:

- Dedication to online or hybrid education
- Commitment to providing excellent graduate-level curriculum
- Comprehensive academic and career services

WKU was ranked in the top 25 and the only program in Kentucky to be recognized. For more information on the MHA program in the Department of Public Health, please contact Dr. William Mkanta (william.mkanta@wku.edu) 270-745-5260.

CSD Student Appointed to International Best Buddies Leadership Position

Katherine Devine is a senior in the Communication Sciences and Disorders program and was recently appointed to the position of Best Buddies Leadership Conference Committee Chair. Best Buddies is a nonprofit organization dedicated to establishing a global volunteer movement that creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment and leadership development for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Katherine is the WKU Chapter President of Best Buddies and also serves on The Young Leaders Council (YLC) of Best Buddies International. The YLC is a group of 20 Best Buddies student representatives from across the nation providing the student perspective for Best Buddies International initiatives. Members of the council serve on committees focused on different aspects of Best Buddies involvement to maintain a steady connection between students and Best Buddies International. The YLC provides its members with the opportunity to incorporate new ideas, build on existing inclusion programs, and share global initiatives with Best Buddies International participants and staff throughout the world.

The Leadership Conference is a weekend conference held annually in Bloomington, IN. Student leaders within Best Buddies come together to share experiences, gather new ideas, and gain the inspiration to bring inclusion back to their own communities. As Chair of the Leadership Committee, Katherine will collaborate with a Best Buddies International staff member to formulate new ideas and activities for the Best Buddies Leadership Conference here in the states. Katherine will work with her fellow YLC Leadership Conference Committee members to bring these ideas to fruition and delegate tasks for members to complete to enhance the experience of Leadership Conference participants.

Locally Best Buddies has accomplished many things worth noting in the past school year. According to Katherine, "We have raised \$1500 for a local family, the Tichenors, who mean a great deal to our organization. Jane Tichenor is the Host Site Coordinator of WKU Best Buddies and Kate Tichenor is our Buddy Director. They sadly lost their home in a fire in February. When WKU Best Buddies heard this we knew we wanted to give back to this family who has given us so much so we planned the Team Tichenor Pasta Dinner." Katherine was also WKU Best Buddies' Homecoming Queen Representative last semester along with her escort, Junior Morgan. "Junior and I made it into the Top 10 candidates meaning we got to walk the

field at halftime. This was a great accomplishment for our chapter as it was the first time in WKU history that someone with an IDD has been able to walk the field for Homecoming. We were so grateful for this opportunity to increase campus and community awareness of the mission of Best Buddies,” said Katherine. The WKU Best Buddies Chapter’s biggest accomplishments are the friendships established among college members and their buddies and the progress made this year toward full inclusion of individuals with special needs throughout the community.



Ms. Katherine Devine

A New Look for Institute for Rural Health’s Outreach Services

**Original story available on WKU News. Please visit <https://wkunews.wordpress.com/2015/05/07/irh-transit/> to be taken directly to the story.*

There is a new look to WKU’s [Institute for Rural Health’s](#) (IRH) outreach this spring semester. With the use of portable equipment, the IRH will use its new Ford Transit Connect to provide preventive medical and dental services, as well as health education in rural areas of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

In 2013-14 alone, the Mobile Health and Wellness Unit and the Mobile Dental Unit visited more than 114 locations in the WKU service area and served more than 4,320 patients. The units collectively provided 8,526 services in the community during the 2013-2014 academic year.

With this new addition to the IRH fleet, the practitioners will be able to service the area more economically and efficiently during times when the facilities have indoor space for services.

The mission of the IRH is to steward a high quality of life for rural populations and underserved areas by engaging students and faculty in service learning and research, by providing clinical services, and by serving as a global resource for improving health in rural communities. Learn more about the Institute for Rural Health’s outreach by visiting <http://www.wku.edu/irh/>.

Contact: Matt Hunt, (270) 745-4038



WKU's Institute for Rural Health will use its new Ford Transit Connect to provide preventive medical and dental services, as well as health education in rural areas of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

BSN Program has 100% Pass Rate for NCLEX

All of the December 2014 BSN graduates (54) passed the NCLEX on their first try-100% pass. Congratulations to the faculty and staff for their efforts in their success.

On May 6, the faculty/staff recognized the BSN Graduating students in an "End of Semester Recognition". This class was the most highly sought after graduating class the School of Nursing (SON) has ever had. The hospital recruiters were out in full force with increased hiring everywhere. Many of the graduates have accepted jobs in Louisville, Owensboro, Madisonville, Elizabethtown, Cincinnati, and Evansville, with only a few (7) who stated they had accepted a job in Bowling Green. Dr. Bennett, the SON Director, expects this trend to continue as students enter the program from other parts of the state and country.

Because of so many different recruiters requesting time to talk with the SON students and taking time from classes, next fall they will host a "Nurse Recruitment Fair" rather than having all the recruiters speak to the student classes individually. This event will be incorporated in the Leadership class and the students will have cover letters/resumes ready for prospective employers.

For more information on the BSN program in the School of Nursing, please contact Dr. Sherry Lovan (sherry.lován@wku.edu) 270-745-8769.

South Central AHEC Funds Health Career Clubs, Adds SRHA Chapter

**Original story available on WKU News. Please visit <https://wkunews.wordpress.com/2015/05/01/ahec-2015/> to be taken directly to the story.*

This spring, the [South Central Area Health Education Center](#) (SC AHEC) at WKU funded after-school health career exploration clubs at Clinton County Middle School and Clinton County High School.

The clubs, named the White Coats Club for Future Medical Professionals, focused on health career promotion and exploration. Middle school students focused on dissection labs, completing worm, owl pellet, frog and fetal pig dissections. High school students completed more complex labs covering topics such as diffusion, genetics and cellular respiration. Both clubs were visited by guest speakers from the medical field including a surgeon, dentist, nurse and physical therapy assistant. In total, the two clubs reached close to 50 students. To view photos from the clubs, visit http://www.wku.edu/scahec/hc_clubs_photos.php.

The SC AHEC is dedicated to promoting health careers to students of all ages. They are actively looking for schools or organizations to partner with for the 2015-2016 academic year. If your school would like to host a health careers exploration club or a different health careers program, contact [Catherine Malin](#).

Learn more about SC AHEC's health career promotion programs at http://www.wku.edu/scahec/health_careers_listing_page.php



Katie Groce (left) and Jaden Mullins dissect a frog in Clinton County Middle School's health careers club. (Photo by Brandon Pharis)

WKU Adds Student Rural Health Association Chapter

**Original story available on WKU News. Please visit <https://wkunews.wordpress.com/2015/05/01/ahec-2015/> to be taken directly to the story.*

WKU has a new student organization, the [WKU/AHEC Student Rural Health Association \(SRHA\)](#) overseen by the [South Central Area Health Education Center](#).

The WKU/AHEC SRHA is a student branch of the [Kentucky Rural Health Association](#). The student organization was granted approval from WKU and KRHA this semester making it the third student chapter in the state.

The WKU/AHEC SRHA is composed of students interested in rural health who are dedicated to learning about and combating the health disparities in rural communities. Students achieve this through a variety of activities including community service, participating in awareness campaigns, bringing influential speakers to campus, and visiting communities in need.

The SRHA will meet again next fall. To learn more about the student organization or the next meeting, visit the organization's website at <http://www.wku.edu/scahec/srha.php> or contact [Taylor Billings](#) (president of SRHA) or [Catherine Malin](#) (staff advisor).

Contact: Catherine Malin, (270) 745-3325

Social Work Graduate Receives Graduate Council Fellowship

Ms. Jessica Bertram (WKU '15) was recently awarded a prestigious Graduate Council Fellowship worth \$15,000 at the University of Alabama. She will use this award to pursue a Ph.D. in Social Work at the main campus in Tuscaloosa. In addition to serving as President of Phi Alpha Honor Society, Jessica is a scholar/resident at the WKU Hill House and an officer in the Graduate Student Social Work Organization. She has conducted and presented research on community development, networking and communities, and cross-cultural social work. She is the daughter of Bryan and Moira Bertram of Floyds Knob, IN.

The Graduate School annually awards nonrenewable Graduate Council Fellowships, which include full tuition scholarships and stipends of approximately \$15,000 per academic year. As a rule, only students who have completed no more than 60 semester hours of graduate credit are eligible, and preference is given to students just beginning their graduate programs.



Ms. Jessica Bertram

DPT Faculty Member Helps with Young Athletes Program

Dr. Karen Furgal, an Assistant Professor in the Doctorate of Physical Therapy program, is hoping to help build a local program called the Young Athletes Program that works with children with motor/cognitive impairment who are ages 2-6 years old. They work on gross motor skills, taking turns, peer modeling, following directions, and encouraging family involvement. One goal is to prepare the children for participation in the Special Olympics when they turn 8 years of age. Dr. Furgal is running this program along with Ms. Nicole DeFreeze, the Special Populations Coordinator for the City of Bowling Green.

Dr. Furgal is hoping to build this program further so that it can be a good service opportunity for students in the DPT program next year. She says that through the program, they are seeing the little ones gain new gross motor skills in an environment where parents can really learn how to carry over activities outside of the program. For more information about this program, please contact Dr. Karen Furgal (Karen.furgal@wku.edu) 270-745-3232.



Dr. Karen Furgal



Tina Ploughe (left) hugs Lucy Celsor, 9, both of Scottsville, during Area 5 Special Olympics Spring Games at Bowling Green High School. (Bac Totrong/photo@bgdailynews.com)

Paul Haman of Bowling Green crosses the finish line in the 800 meter run during Area 5 Special Olympics Spring Games at Bowling Green High School. (Bac Totrong/photo@bgdailynews.com)

Children compete in the 15 meter dash during Area 5 Special Olympics Spring Games at Bowling Green High School. (Bac Totrong/photo@bgdailynews.com)



Competitors and supporters to the national anthem during Area 5 Special Olympics Spring Games at Bowling Green High School. (Bac Totrong/photo@bgdailynews.com)

Christy Carter of Russellville competes in the softball throw during Area 5 Special Olympics Spring Games at Bowling Green High School. (Bac Totrong/photo@bgdailynews.com)

Public Health Student and Faculty Member Receive Awards at Long Term Care Conference

**Original story available on WKU News. Please visit <https://wkunews.wordpress.com/2015/03/23/achca-2015-conference/> to be taken directly to the story.*

Seven WKU students and one faculty member from the [Department of Public Health's Health Care Administration \(HCA\)](#) and [Long Term Care Administration \(LTCA\) Certificate Program](#) recently traveled to Rising Sun, Indiana, to attend the [American College of Health Care Administrators' \(ACHCA\)](#) regional District 3 Meeting.

Despite last minute transportation challenges and forecasts of winter storms across Kentucky and Indiana, students still found their way to attend the annual district conference known to offer excellent education and networking with long term care (LTC) professionals.

Students from WKU, LTC professionals and academics from Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan and West Virginia gathered for the three-day affair March 4-6 to satisfy continuing education requirements, network with vendors and peers, and participate in a variety of meetings and social events, including an awards banquet.

HCA student and [Student Healthcare Association \(SHA\)](#) Undergraduate President Fred Rowe of Bowling Green said: "I believe that the most beneficial aspect for students who attended the Rising Sun meeting this year is twofold; first, having the opportunity to attend educational sessions addressing current healthcare issues and trends, and second, an opportunity to network with current LTC professionals."

Several students connected with professionals to discuss future internship and administrator in training (AIT) opportunities.

The Kentucky Chapter of ACHCA presented awards to SHA Vice President Trevor Davis of Louisville, a health care administration student pursuing the LTCA Certificate Program, and HCA faculty member Melanie Eaton.

Davis's first award, the inaugural Student Member of the Year, was presented for personal achievements in LTC, academic pursuits and involvement in ACHCA. ACHCA Kentucky Chapter President Israel Ray said: "Trevor received the first ever student member of the year award because we wanted to recognize and honor a student member who has gone above and beyond. His leadership initiatives are what epitomizes future leaders."

Davis's second award, the Phil McConnell Scholarship Award, is an annual national award given to two students each year to cover expenses to attend the national ACHCA Convocation, with only one award given to a non-Ohio student. Davis is only the second student at WKU to receive this award.

"I am honored to have been recognized at the District 3 Meeting in front of my peers and healthcare professionals from around the region," Davis said. "I will be utilizing the funds awarded by the Phil McConnell Scholarship to travel to San Antonio for ACHCA's National Convocation this April."

Eaton received the Bridging the Gap Award for her continued efforts in promoting student involvement both within and outside of the classroom. “The Bridging the Gap Award was created this year for Mrs. Eaton because she has utilized her role as a leader, LTC professional, and instructor to bridge the gap between students of today and leaders of tomorrow,” Ray said. This is the second consecutive year Eaton has received an award at the district meeting for her contributions to the long term care profession.

Students who attended the conference included **Trevor Davis** of Louisville, **Laura Allen** of Edgewood, **Fred Rowe** of Bowling Green, **Faith Akhuetie-oni** of Minnesota, **Monalisa Eda** of India, **Betty Richter** of Elizabethtown and **Marivic Alvear** of California.

For information about the Department of Public Health’s programs, including the Health Care Administration undergraduate degree and the Long Term Care Certificate Program, visit www.wku.edu/publichealth

Contact: Melanie Eaton, (270) 745-5854



WKU Public Health students, alumni and faculty and Kentucky long term care leaders attended ACHCA’s District 3 Meeting in Rising Sun, Indiana.