Greetings!

Congratulations to our graduates at this School of Public Health Commencement 2016!

We are extremely proud of the progress all our graduates have achieved as students, of the education you have shared with your peers and professors as you have pursued your studies, of the discoveries you have made through your research, and of the service you have contributed to communities.

We are living through an extremely difficult and challenging time in the history of our nation and the world. Our health and quality of life are threatened by the environments in our communities, schools, and workplaces. Despite our knowledge of the impact behavior has on health, we continue to lose too many lives to habits we could easily change. Responding to the accelerating prevalence of chronic diseases, such as obesity and diabetes, vies for limited resources with the growth of infectious diseases, such as HIV/AIDS and Ebola, along with a multitude of other threats to public health. Our health policies and programs still fall far short of the public health ideals of prevention, protection, and promotion.

Nevertheless, our students this year have been outstanding for their leadership, vision, and dedication to working on behalf of individuals, organizations, and communities in need. As our graduates, they will continue throughout their careers to contribute these gifts, as they address the challenges to the health of the public we serve.

I wish you all the very best for the future. I know the public health community will be better because of the many contributions you will make.

Finally, let me thank the parents, families, spouses, significant others, and children of our graduates. Without your support and understanding, our graduates would not be here today, and we would not be celebrating their achievements together.
COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

Kimberly Wasserman is the director of organizing and strategy of the Little Village Environmental Justice Organization (LVEJO), where she has worked since 1998. As director, she oversees community projects, leadership development, and outreach. Kimberly looks to the day La Villita will be a strong sustained community, and until that day, she continues to work on the frontline. In 2013, Mrs. Wasserman was the recipient of the Goldman Prize for North America.

Kimberly Wasserman
Director of Organizing and Strategy, Little Village Environmental Justice Organization
STATEMENT OF VALUES

We are a community of scholars, students, and staff, dedicated to creating a healthy society. In achieving this goal, we are committed to:

COMMUNITY
the basic unit of analysis for public health, enabling communities to address their own problems, share skills, lower barriers to action, and act as a catalyst for progress

KNOWLEDGE
the pursuit, development, and dissemination of which will improve the health of the public

PROFESSIONALISM
acting with integrity and collegiality in learning, teaching, research, and public service

STEWARDSHIP
of natural, human, and financial resources

IDEALISM
whether secularly or spiritually motivated

CARING
promoting compassion for and action on behalf of others

JUSTICE
whereby everyone is given access to the resources necessary to live a humane life and necessary to fulfill his or her full potential

DIVERSITY
celebrating unique contributions to the fabric of our community

RESPECT
for the members of this community and for those whom our efforts are intended to serve

HUMILITY
as we set our goals, as we work together to achieve them, and as we address the inevitable conflicts produced by those joint efforts
Fanfare .............................................................. Northeastern Illinois University Brass Ensemble

PROCESSIONAL

Singing of “America The Beautiful” .................................. Northeastern Illinois University Brass Ensemble
LYRICS ON PAGE 44

Greetings .................................................................. Paul Brandt-Rauf, DrPH, MD, ScD
DEAN

Opening Remarks ......................................................... Michael D. Amiridis, PhD
CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO
Jonathan J. Art, PhD
ASSOCIATE DEAN, GRADUATE COLLEGE

Commencement Address ............................................... Kimberly Wasserman
DIRECTOR OF ORGANIZING AND STRATEGY OF THE LITTLE VILLAGE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ORGANIZATION (LVEJO)

Appreciation Award .................................................... Paul Brandt-Rauf, DrPH, MD, ScD
Recipient ............................................................... Kimberly Wasserman

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES
Michael D. Amiridis, PhD ............................................ Chancellor

PRESENTATION OF GRADUATES (SEE LIST ON PAGE 41)
Paul Brandt-Rauf, DrPH, MD, ScD ..................................... Dean

DIVISION DIRECTORS
Jesus Ramirez-Valles, PhD, MPH ..................................... Community Health Sciences
Samuel Dorevitch, MD ................................................ Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences
Ronald Hershow, PhD ................................................ Epidemiology and Biostatistics
Lisa Powell, PhD ......................................................... Health Policy and Administration

PROGRAM DIRECTORS
Patrick Lenihan, PhD ................................................ Doctor of Public Health in Leadership
Karin J. Opacich, PhD, MHPE, OTR/L, FAOTA .................. Bachelor of Arts in Public Health

RECOGNITION OF GRADUATES
Richard Sewell, MPH ................................................ Associate Dean, Health Policy and Administration
## Presentation of Awards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award Presentation</th>
<th>Recipient</th>
<th>Department</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Silver Circle Award</td>
<td>J. A. Herrmann, DVM, MPH, DACT</td>
<td>Department of Community Health Sciences</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Joanna Michel, PhD</td>
<td>Department of Urban Medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bernard H. Baum Golden Apple Award</td>
<td>Saria Awadalla, PhD</td>
<td>Assistant Professor, Epidemiology and Biostatistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alan W. Donaldson Memorial Award</td>
<td>Cindy San Miguel</td>
<td>Department of Community Health Sciences</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Class of 2016 Remarks**

Cindy San Miguel

**Reading of the School Statement of Values**

Cindy San Miguel

**Welcome from the Alumni association**

Tracie L. Smith, MPH

**Recessional**

**Marshals**

Karen Aguirre

Madison Hammet

Queena Luu

**Music**

Mostly Music at NEIU Brass Quartet

**Reception to Follow**

Rochford Tent

**Award recipients are privileged to receive red leadership cords to wear at their respective commencement ceremonies.**

**All guests are asked to please remain seated until the last graduate has exited the room.**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STUDENT</th>
<th>DEGREE CONFERRED</th>
<th>DISSERTATION TITLE</th>
<th>COMMITTEE CHAIR</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Umaima Al-Alem</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>The Role of Glucocorticoid Receptor in the Racial/Ethnic Disparity of Aggressive Breast Cancer</td>
<td>Garth Rauscher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yuka Asada</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>Implementing Snack Policies: A Multiple Case Study Analysis</td>
<td>Noel Chavez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heba Hussain Bakhsh</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>Mapping Social Vulnerability and Exposure Parameters to Extreme Heat Events in Missouri</td>
<td>Michael Cailas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheryl Ann Bedno</td>
<td>DrPH</td>
<td>A Systems Evaluation of Army Civilian Occupational Injuries and Illnesses and Recommendations for Change</td>
<td>Kristina Risley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Anthony Benitez</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>Essays on Quasi-Experimental Methods in Measuring Access to Care</td>
<td>Anthony T. LoSasso</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benjamin James Booth</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>Environmental and Occupational Agricultural Exposures and Risk of Childhood Cancer</td>
<td>Leslie T. Stayner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Xue Grace Chen Chiou</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>Costs and Utilization of Treat-to-Target Guideline Compliance in VA Patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis</td>
<td>Jack Zwanziger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firas M. Dabbous</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>Burden and Morbidity of Breast Screening and Diagnostic Work up: Results from a Community Based Approach</td>
<td>Garth Rauscher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doa M. Dada</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>An Investigation of Social Vulnerability and TRI-reporting Facilities in the Houston Metropolitan Area</td>
<td>Michael Cailas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margaret Katherine Danilovich</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>Translating Strong for Life in the Community Care Program</td>
<td>Susan Hughes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amparo Del Socorro Castillo</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>Stress Reduction with Tai Chi for Elderly Hispanics with Diabetes</td>
<td>Laurie Ruggiero</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Onyinyechi Uchechi Enyia</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>Effects of Health Information Technology Implementation on Clinical Outcomes and Quality of Care</td>
<td>Edward K. Mensah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lakisha Nicole Flagg</td>
<td>DrPH</td>
<td>The Future of APHN: An assessment of gaps and factors influencing staff support of MEDCOM HP priorities</td>
<td>Christina Welter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adriane Kathryn Griffen</td>
<td>DrPH</td>
<td>Case Study Analysis of State Readiness and Capacity: Smoking Cessation for People with a Disability</td>
<td>Kristina Risley</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jiehong Guo</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>Spatial Distribution and Time Trend of Organic Pollutant Chemicals in the Sediments of Upper Great Lakes</td>
<td>An LI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joelle Hallak</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>Dry Eye Disease and Depression: Epidemiological and Biological Links</td>
<td>Supriya Mehta</td>
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<td>Lisette Paola Irarrazabal</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>Barriers and Facilitators in Readiness to Adopt Rapid HIV Testing Among Healthcare Workers in Chile</td>
<td>Judith A. Levy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fei Jie</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>Statistics Methodologies for Neuroconnectivity Analysis Using fMRI Data in Autism</td>
<td>Dulal Bhaumik</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amy Kristen Johnson</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>Surveillance of Sexually Transmitted Infections: Exploring the Utility of Internet Search Engine Data</td>
<td>Supriya Mehta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rocio Gonzalez Luna</td>
<td>DrPH</td>
<td>The Role of Community Engagement in Implementation of Community Health Assessments: A Qualitative Study</td>
<td>Eve Pinsker</td>
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<td>Matthew Joseph Monberg</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>Evaluation of the Patterns and Risks of Erythropoietin Stimulating Agents in Head and Neck Cancers</td>
<td>Leslie T. Stayner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thanh An Nguyen Le</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>Organization of Dental Care Industry</td>
<td>Anthony T. LoSasso</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jason Eric Orcena</td>
<td>DrPH</td>
<td>For a Few Dollars More: The Case for Cross-Jurisdictional Sharing in Ohio’s Local Health Departments</td>
<td>Michael Petros</td>
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<td>Joseph Ornelas</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>The Effect of Financial Incentives on Physician Performance: Evidence from a Pay-For-Performance Program</td>
<td>Anthony T. LoSasso</td>
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<td>Elizabeth A. Pozzebon</td>
<td>DrPH</td>
<td>Organizational change factors that can influence implementation of a performance management system</td>
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<td>Beth A. Resnick</td>
<td>DrPH</td>
<td>An Examination of Undergraduate Public Health as a Potential Pathway to the Public Health Professional Pipeline</td>
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<td>David John Reynen</td>
<td>DrPH</td>
<td>Towards Broadening Secondary Prevention Efforts within a State Stroke Registry</td>
<td>Christina Welter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peter Seth Ruestow</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>The Molecular Epidemiology of Dioxin Exposure in Former Chemical Workers</td>
<td>Daniel Hryhorczuk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sara Elizabeth Wuellner</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>An Evaluation of Employer-Reported Data in the Nation’s Occupational Injury Surveillance System</td>
<td>Linda Forst</td>
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ALAN W. DONALDSON MEMORIAL AWARD
The Alan W. Donaldson Memorial Award is presented annually to one graduating student who is selected for academic excellence, quality of leadership, and community service. This is a memorial to Alan W. Donaldson, ScD, a founding father of the school and its first associate dean.

GOLDEN APPLE AWARD
The Golden Apple Award is presented each year to a faculty member in recognition of outstanding teaching and extraordinary service to students at the School of Public Health.

SILVER CIRCLE AWARD
The Silver Circle Award is presented each year to a faculty member in recognition of outstanding teaching in the undergraduate program at the School of Public Health.

DELTA OMEGA SOCIETY
The Delta Omega Society is a national honorary public health fraternity established to recognize and encourage scholarship and research among those undertaking postbaccalaureate study in public health and to recognize academic achievement in the field.

Noel Chavez, PhD, RD, LDN ................................................. President

Students
Deanna Bellandi ................................. Alexandra Ibrahim ................................. Jasmine Smith
Neha Chandan ................................. Nadia Ismail ................................. Amy Solsman
Leslie Cordes ................................. Ellen Kerns ................................. Christina Turino
Olivia Desormeaux ............................. Zabin Patel ................................. Jennifer Wright
Jenny Guadamuz ................................. Kathryn Petrovich
Chloe Gurin-Sands ................................. Cindy San Miguel
Crista Heilman ................................. Elizabeth Schmidt

STUDENT LEADERSHIP: 2015–2016 OFFICERS
Public Health Student Association (PHSA)
President ............................................................... Amanda Dougherty
Vice President: .......................................................... Erika Marshall
Secretary ............................................................... Justine Britten
Treasurer ............................................................... Mariela Rodriguez
APHA Liaison ........................................................... Angelica Sanchez
Service Committee ........................................................ Madison Hammett

Minority Students for the Advancement of Public Health (MSAPH)
President ............................................................... Cindy San Miguel
Vice President ........................................................... Maribel Gamon
Treasurer ............................................................... Nadia Ismail
Events Chair ............................................................ Isabel Sanchez
Communications Chair ................................................... Anna Calix
Secretary ............................................................... Nadia Ahmed
ODI Liaison ............................................................. Kaijah Blackwell