



**Paul Brandt-Rauf, DrPH,
MD, ScD**
Dean

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
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PRESENTATION OF GRADUATES (SEE LIST ON PAGE 41)

Paul Brandt-Rauf, DrPH, MD, ScD	Dean
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DIVISION DIRECTORS

Jesus Ramirez-Valles, PhD, MPH	Community Health Sciences
Samuel Dorevitch, MD	Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences
Ronald Hershov, 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
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PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Silver Circle Award Presentation

Recipient: J. A. Herrmann, DVM, MPH, DACT.

Recipient: Joanna Michel, PhD.

Bernard H. Baum Golden Apple Award Presentation

Recipient: Saria Awadalla, PhD

Alan W. Donaldson Memorial Award Presentation

Recipient: Cindy San Miguel

Class of 2016 Remarks

Reading of the School Statement of Values

Welcome from the Alumni association

Amanda Dougherty
PRESIDENT, PUBLIC HEALTH STUDENT
ASSOCIATION

Department of Community
Health Sciences

Department of Urban Medicine

Amanda Dougherty

Assistant Professor, Epidemiology
and Biostatistics

Nadine Peacock, PhD

ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR DIVERSITY
AND INCLUSION

Department of Community
Health Sciences

Cindy San Miguel

Cindy San Miguel

Tracie L. Smith, MPH

PRESIDENT, SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
ALUMNI BOARD

RECESSIONAL

Marshals

Karen Aguirre

Madison Hammet

Queena Luu

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.

Music

**Mostly Music at NEIU Brass
Quartet**

Reception to Follow

Rochford Tent

DOCTORAL GRADUATES

STUDENT	DEGREE CONFERRED	DISSERTATION TITLE	COMMITTEE CHAIR
Umaima Al-Alem	PhD	The Role of Glucocorticoid Receptor in the Racial/Ethnic Disparity of Aggressive Breast Cancer	Garth Rauscher
Yuka Asada	PhD	Implementing Snack Policies: A Multiple Case Study Analysis	Noel Chavez
Heba Hussain Bakhsh	PhD	Mapping Social Vulnerability and Exposure Parameters to Extreme Heat Events in Missouri	Michael Cailas
Sheryl Ann Bedno	DrPH	A Systems Evaluation of Army Civilian Occupational Injuries and Illnesses and Recommendations for Change	Kristina Risley
Joseph Anthony Benitez	PhD	Essays on Quasi-Experimental Methods in Measuring Access to Care	Anthony T. LoSasso
Benjamin James Booth	PhD	Environmental and Occupational Agricultural Exposures and Risk of Childhood Cancer	Leslie T. Stayner
Xue Grace Chen Chiou	PhD	Costs and Utilization of Treat-to-Target Guideline Compliance in VA Patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis	Jack Zwanziger
Firas M. Dabbous	PhD	Burden and Morbidity of Breast Screening and Diagnostic Work up: Results from a Community Based Approach	Garth Rauscher
Doa M. Dada	PhD	An Investigation of Social Vulnerability and TRI-reporting Facilities in the Houston Metropolitan Area	Michael Cailas
Margaret Katherine Danilovich	PhD	Translating Strong for Life in the Community Care Program	Susan Hughes
Amparo Del Socorro Castillo	PhD	Stress Reduction with Tai Chi for Elderly Hispanics with Diabetes	Laurie Ruggiero
Onyinyechi Uchechi Enyia	PhD	Effects of Health Information Technology Implementation on Clinical Outcomes and Quality of Care	Edward K. Mensah
Lakisha Nicole Flagg	DrPH	The Future of APHN: An assessment of gaps and factors influencing staff support of MEDCOM HP priorities	Christina Welter
Adriane Kathryn Griffen	DrPH	Case Study Analysis of State Readiness and Capacity: Smoking Cessation for People with a Disability	Kristina Risley
Jiehong Guo	PhD	Spatial Distribution and Time Trend of Organic Pollutant Chemicals in the Sediments of Upper Great Lakes	An LI
Joelle Hallak	PhD	Dry Eye Disease and Depression: Epidemiological and Biological Links	Supriya Mehta

STUDENT	DEGREE CONFERRED	DISSERTATION TITLE	COMMITTEE CHAIR
Lisette Paola Irrarrazabal	PhD	Barriers and Facilitators in Readiness to Adopt Rapid HIV Testing Among Healthcare Workers in Chile	Judith A. Levy
Fei Jie	PhD	Statistics Methodologies for Neuroconnectivity Analysis Using fMRI Data in Autism	Dulal Bhaumik
Amy Kristen Johnson	PhD	Surveillance of Sexually Transmitted Infections: Exploring the Utility of Internet Search Engine Data	Supriya Mehta
Rocio Gonzalez Luna	DrPH	The Role of Community Engagement in Implementation of Community Health Assessments: A Qualitative Study	Eve Pinsker
Matthew Joseph Monberg	PhD	Evaluation of the Patterns and Risks of Erythropoietin Stimulating Agents in Head and Neck Cancers	Leslie T. Stayner
Thanh An Nguyen Le	PhD	Organization of Dental Care Industry	Anthony T. LoSasso
Jason Eric Orcena	DrPH	For a Few Dollars More: The Case for Cross-Jurisdictional Sharing in Ohio's Local Health Departments	Michael Petros
Joseph Ornelas	PhD	The Effect of Financial Incentives on Physician Performance: Evidence from a Pay-For-Performance Program	Anthony T. LoSasso
Elizabeth A. Pozzebon	DrPH	Organizational change factors that can influence implementation of a performance management system	Christina Welter
Beth A. Resnick	DrPH	An Examination of Undergraduate Public Health as a Potential Pathway to the Public Health Professional Pipeline	Christina Welter
Elizabeth A. Pozzebon	DrPH	Organizational change factors that can influence implementation of a performance management system	Christina Welter
David John Reynen	DrPH	Towards Broadening Secondary Prevention Efforts within a State Stroke Registry	Christina Welter
Peter Seth Ruestow	PhD	The Molecular Epidemiology of Dioxin Exposure in Former Chemical Workers	Daniel Hryhorczuk
Hale M. Thompson	PhD	Visible Lives: Electronic Health Records and the Surveillance of Gender Non-Conformity	Jesus Ramirez-Valles
Sara Elizabeth Wuellner	PhD	An Evaluation of Employer-Reported Data in the Nation's Occupational Injury Surveillance System	Linda Forst

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