

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO

2023 CONVOCATION



COLLEGE OF
POPULATION HEALTH

TUESDAY | 9 MAY 2023

Conferral of a degree occurs when the student has satisfied all degree requirements. Participation in the convocation ceremony does not constitute a conferral of the degree. Similarly, the inclusion of a student's name in this program does not confirm eligibility for the degree.

CONVOCATION 2023

Welcome

Kristine Tollestrup, PhD, MPH

Director, Education Programs

Tracie Collins, MD, MPH, MHCDS

Dean, College of Population Health

Douglas Ziedonis, MD, MPH

Executive Vice President for Health Sciences

Convocation Address

Justin Garoutte, MPH, CPH

Community Engagement Manager, Unite Us

Undergraduate Program

BSPH Graduate Address

Presentation of BSPH Degree Candidates

Tammy Thomas, PhD, MSW, MPH

Director, Undergraduate Programs

Graduate Program

MPH Graduate Address

Presentation of MPH Degree Candidates

Robert Frank, PhD

Director, MPH Program

Recognition and Closing

Presentation of Awards

Declaration of Public Health Oath

Closing Remarks

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' LAND AND TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Founded in 1889, The University of New Mexico sits on the traditional homelands of the Pueblo of Sandia. The original peoples of New Mexico – Pueblo, Navajo, and Apache – since time immemorial, have deep connections to the land and have made significant contributions to the broader community statewide. We honor the land itself and those who remain stewards of this land throughout the generations and also acknowledge our committed relationship to Indigenous peoples.

We gratefully recognize our history.

Developed by the Special Assistance for American Indian Affairs to the UNM President in consultation with the Native Faculty Council

STATEMENT ACKNOWLEDGING THE LABOR AND SACRIFICES OF BLACK AMERICANS

At UNM, we respectfully acknowledge the traumatic history of forced labor of Black Americans who have advanced our country. We are indebted to the enslaved and exploited African Americans who established our U.S. infrastructure and economy, advanced civil rights, and continue to influence popular culture. We are obligated to continuously recognize historic and current systematic oppression and injustices placed on Black Americans. We are grateful to their ancestors; for without them we would not be where we are today.

Developed by Fall 2022 FYEX 1110 Black Minds Matter Class

CONVOCATION ADDRESS



Justin Garoutte, MPH, CPH

Community Engagement
Manager, Unite Us

Justin (pronouns: they/he) is a gay, genderqueer, Latine public health leader from Antonito, Colorado. Their interests are health equity, social justice, LGBTQIA+ health, and community foundations of health. In 2019, they received their Master of Public Health with distinction from the UNM College of Population Health with a focus on sexual and gender minority health.

Justin has served as Policy Chair to the LGBTQ Health Caucus of the American Public Health Association and Policy Committee Co-Chair of the New Mexico Public Health Association. Recently, Justin was named

40 Under 40 in Public Health by the de Beaumont Foundation and began earning their Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) degree in health equity and social justice from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Currently, Justin works as a community engagement manager with Unite Us. They reside in northern New Mexico with their husband and cats Mochi and Zucca. When they are not breaking down barriers for health, you can find them on the local trails, camping, and kayaking the Río Grande.

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN POPULATION HEALTH SPEAKER



Brenna Willison, BS

Brenna was born and raised in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She graduated from Sandia High School and is a proud third generation Lobo. Brenna always knew she would go to UNM for college, however, she did not know what she wanted to study. Brenna found population health her freshman year and immediately knew it was what she wanted to major in because of how broad, yet, specific it is. She also minored in psychology to gain insight into the population she hopes to serve. Brenna plans to apply to the UNM

Occupational Therapy program to obtain a master's degree in occupational therapy. In her free time, she enjoys playing pickleball with her friends and family, watching Netflix, reading, and doing her nails. Brenna hopes to improve people's lives by using her occupational therapy degree and her population health degree.

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN POPULATION HEALTH

Breana Abeyta

Graduating with a Minor in Community Health Education

Leah Ahkee ~

Will graduate with a Minor in Political Science

Evelyn Daisy Alvarez

Graduating *magna cum laude* ° with a Minor in Spanish

Edgar Arevalo

Graduating *summa cum laude* °

DeShawna Begay

Graduating with a 2nd Major in Native American Studies with a Concentration in Leadership and Building Native Nations

Rylee Angelina Brachle *

Graduated *summa cum laude* with a 2nd Major in Psychology and an Honors Certificate

Devona Bradford *

Graduated with a Dual Degree - Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts

Paula Bustillos

Graduating with a Minor in Psychology

Zohie Cardenas

Graduating *summa cum laude* ° with a 2nd Major in Psychology

Joni S. Chee *

Graduated with a Minor in Psychology

° Pending final grades | * Fall 2022 Graduate | ~ Summer 2023 Graduate

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN POPULATION HEALTH

Serena Cumber

Graduating *summa cum laude* °

Alyssa Estrada *

Graduated *cum laude* with a Minor in Management

Leslie Favela

Graduating *cum laude* ° with a Minor in Communications

Alice Gutierrez ~

Will graduate with a Minor in Psychology

Analissa Marisol Gutierrez *

Graduated *cum laude* with an Honors Designation and a Double Major in Chemistry and Biology

Cameron Guy *

Graduated with a Minor in Psychology

Veronica G. Hibler *

Graduated *summa cum laude* with a Minor in Chemistry

Lauren A. Hite *

Graduated with a Minor in Psychology

Mercy R. Jones *

Graduated *summa cum laude* with a Minor in Anthropology

Rado Josoa

Graduating with a Minor in Community Health Education

° Pending final grades | * Fall 2022 Graduate | ~ Summer 2023 Graduate

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN POPULATION HEALTH

Lara Karatas *

Graduated *cum laude* with a Dual Degree -

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology

Gurleen Kaur

Graduating *summa cum laude* ° with a Minor in Chemistry

Shea McEvoy *

Graduated *cum laude* with a Double Minor in Psychology
and Community Health Education

Bryana Hope Montoya

Graduating *cum laude* ° with a Minor in Sociology

Nicolette Perez *

Graduated with a Minor in Community Health Education

Nionna A. Phillips *

Graduated with a Minor in Community Health Education

Genevieve Sanchez *

Graduated with a Minor in Psychology

Makenzie M. Smith *

Graduated *cum laude* with a Minor in Psychology

Tekoa K. Snyder

Graduating with a Minor in Community Health Education

Janeth Soria

Graduating *magna cum laude* ° with an Area of Focus in
Physical Therapy

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN POPULATION HEALTH

Christopher M. Tingle *

Graduated *cum laude* with a Minor in Psychology

Kimberly L. Toya

Graduating with an Area of Focus in Nursing

Brooke Vigil *

Graduated with a Minor in Spanish

Jacob Villalobos

Graduating *cum laude* ° with a Minor in Psychology
and an Area of Focus in Physical Therapy

Aya Williams *

Graduated with a Minor in History

Brenna Willison

Graduating *summa cum laude* ° with a Minor in Psychology

Zoey Zhen-Taylor

Graduating with a Minor in Business Management



Based on UNM Baccalaureate GPA Scale

° Pending final grades | * Fall 2022 Graduate

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH SPEAKER



Natalie A. Rogers, MPH

Natalie Rogers was born and raised in Albuquerque, NM, by a large and loving family. She is a mother to a wonderful teenage daughter and lives in Albuquerque's south valley. Natalie is a science communicator, graphic designer, and proud UNM alumna. She graduated from UNM in 2005 with undergraduate degrees in math and political science. She has remained at UNM research organizations and administrations for over 15 years. In 2019, Natalie made the brave decision to change the direction of her life and career with a renewed

passion for public health. During her time at the College of Population Health, Natalie has persevered through life's challenges and the most difficult three years in public health caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Natalie intends to put her Master of Public Health degree to good use through continuing research and public outreach for the public good.

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Christina Alaniz

BA, University of Michigan

Focus: Mutual Learning and Critical Reflexivity Through
Community-Based Participatory Research

Dr. Hossein Azadi

MD, Tehran Medical School

Focus: Review of the Potential for Bone Fractures in
RESP-Enrolled Uranium Miners Due to Uranium Exposure

Ariana Bitsui ~

BS, The University of New Mexico

Focus: Critical Thinking in Epidemiologic Analysis

Dr. Smita Carroll

BS, Union College

MBA, Clarkson University

MD, Albany Medical College

Graduating with Distinction

Focus: UNM CAREs: A Community Assessment of
Reproductive Access

Cory Michaela Dinter

BS, University of Utah

MS, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg

Graduating with Distinction

Focus: Centering Equity in Health Systems, Services,
and Policies

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Morgan Edwards-Fligner

BA, Lawrence University

Focus: Gram-Negative Bacterial Resistance After 2020:

Following Up on Multidrug Resistant Gram Negative Bacteria
Surveillance During the COVID-19 Pandemic / Bernalillo County,
New Mexico, 2020-2021

Belkis Jacquez

BS, New Mexico State University

Graduating with Distinction

Focus: Public Health Through the Lens of Community Based
Participatory Research

Logan Jeffers

BS, The University of New Mexico

Focus: Advancing Healthcare Quality, Documentation,
Education, and Research Through the Establishment of a
Specialized Medical Documentation Workforce Within The
University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center

Nidhi Kanabar

BS, The University of New Mexico

Focus: Utilizing Research-Practice Partnerships to
Understand State-Level Context for Cancer Prevention
Through Implementation and Dissemination

~ Summer 2023 Graduate

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Dr. Nayeem Hassan Khan

MBBS, University of Dhaka

Focus: Utilizing Research-Practice Partnerships to Understand State-Level Context for Cancer Prevention Through Implementation and Dissemination

Zachary Cylis Larry

BS, The University of New Mexico

Focus: Critical Analysis in Epidemiology

Dr. Laila Lobo

MD, Mysore Medical College and Research Centre

Focus: The Relationship Between Race and Ethnicity and Diabetes Mellitus Prevalence in Uranium Miners

Dr. Nichole McGuire

BS, The University of New Mexico

MD, The University of New Mexico

Graduating with Distinction

Focus: Cost of Medical Malpractice Insurance in New Mexico and its Effects on Physician Practice

Eleni Georgia Morris

BS, The University of New Mexico

Focus: The Critical Analysis of Health Systems, Services and Policies in Public Health

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Kelley Plymesser

RN, Santa Fe Community College
BSN, The University of New Mexico

Focus: Applied Epidemiology to Advance Healthcare
Capacity-Building in Infectious Disease

Dr. Asma Qamruddin *

MBBS, Osmania Medical College
MD, Gandhi Medical College

Focus: Oropharyngeal Therapy with Human Milk for Preterm
Neonates and its Implications for Neonatal Outcomes

Alden Ray Harrison Reviere

BS, The University of New Mexico

Focus: Trends in Clinical and Social Risk Factors of Severe
Chronic Kidney Disease and a Comparison of eGFR Calculators

Natalie A. Rogers

BA, BS, The University of New Mexico

Focus: Three Years of Epidemiology, Social Determinants,
and COVID-19

Alba Nydia Villezcas

BA, The University of New Mexico

Focus: Epidemiologic Methods and Research

* Fall 2022 Graduate

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Lucia Vulcan

BS, The University of New Mexico

Focus: Improving LGBTQI+ Healthcare by Increasing the Number of Competently Trained Physicians: Creating Gender and Sexuality-Inclusive Undergraduate Medical School Curriculum

Dr. Linda Kay Walkup

BS, Rice University

PhD, The University of New Mexico

Graduating with Distinction

Focus: Differences in SARS CoV-2 Lineage Diversity In Wyoming During the COVID Pandemic's First Year

Cassandra Wilson

BS, The University of New Mexico

Focus: Association Between Bullying and Suicide Attempts Among High School Students in the U.S., 2019

Dr. Maria Johana Zambrano

DO, Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine

Focus: Analysis of Medical Mistrust/Trust in Physicians Among Participants Who Underwent the Kidney Transplant Fast Track (KTFT) Intervention

COLLEGE OF POPULATION HEALTH AWARDS

BSPH Academic Achievement Award

In recognition of Bachelor of Science in Population Health student(s) who maintained the highest grade point average (GPA) throughout their academic journey.

BSPH Outstanding Leadership Award

In recognition of Bachelor of Science in Population Health student(s) who demonstrated outstanding leadership in population health.

MPH Academic Distinction Award

In recognition of Master of Public Health student(s) who maintained the highest grade point average (GPA) throughout their academic journey.

MPH Excellence in Public Health Award

In recognition of Master of Public Health student(s) who demonstrated outstanding leadership in public health.

COLLEGE OF POPULATION HEALTH FACULTY AND INSTRUCTORS

Tracie Collins, MD, MPH, MHCDS
Dean

Ron Aldrich, MBA

Alexis O'Donnell, PhD, MS

Karen Armitage, MD, FAAP

Frankie Perry, RN, MA, LFACHE

William Athas, PhD

Claudia Pratesi, PhD, MCRP, MWR

Victor K. Barbiero, PhD, MHS

Andrew Rowland, PhD

Lorenda Belone, PhD, MPH

Shannon Sanchez-Youngman, PhD

Lisa Cacari-Stone, PhD, MA, MS

Randy Schwartz, MSPH

Stephanie Chambers, MPH

Pamela Sedillo, MPA

Jessica Carr, MPH

Sarah Shrum Davis, MPH

Amy Collins, MS, MA, CHES

Francisco Soto Mas, MD, PhD

Amber Dukes, PhD, MPH

Noell Stone, MPH

Nicholas Edwardson, PhD

Samuel Swift, PhD

Jonathan Eldredge, PhD, MLS

Tammy Thomas, PhD, MPH, MSW

Robert Frank, PhD

Kristine Tollestrup, PhD, MPH

Carmela Kahn, DrPH, MPH

Laura Tomedi, PhD, MPH

Crystal Lee, PhD, MPH

Elise Trott Jaramillo, PhD, MA

Susan Merrill, LCSW

Nina Wallerstein, DrPH

Laura Nervi, PhD, MPH, MSSc

Sharz Weeks, MPH

THE PUBLIC HEALTH OATH

“ Health is a human right. The public health community exists to safeguard that right. I believe it is a defining element of a civil society. Public health represents the collective actions necessary to protect the health of all people. Through prevention science and practice we can accomplish this goal. As a public health professional, guided by these principles, I declare the following:

I will work to ensure that people have the chance to live full and productive lives, free from avoidable disease and disability and supported in their pursuit of physical, mental, and social well-being.

I will hold myself to the highest ethics, standards, values, and responsibilities as I move forward the science and practice of public health.

I will respect the rights, values, beliefs, and cultures of those individuals and communities with whom I work.

I will rely on evidence to support my decisions and actions, and translate that evidence into policies and programs that improve health for all.

I will add to the body of research and knowledge and share my discoveries freely.

I will continuously seek new information and be open to ideas that can better protect and promote the health of populations.

I will advance health literacy for all and seek equity and justice for vulnerable populations.

With this oath, I commit to the ideals and mission of public health. ”

Great things await the



We are always here for **you**.

As an alumnus of the UNM College of Population Health, you are part of an important and influential group. You and your fellow alums are making an impact on the health of individuals and communities locally, regionally and nationally. As you move forward in your lives, we want to know what you're up to.

We invite you to remain connected. Come visit campus as often as you can, whether it is to attend upcoming Alumni events or just to catch up. Did you start a new job or have a success to share? Perhaps you have a potential mentoring opportunity for a current student. Let's find ways to collaborate and work in partnership to promote health equity.

We hope you will give us the opportunity to celebrate your future achievements just as we are celebrating with you today.

Stay in touch.

Melody Wells, Director of Development
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COLLEGE OF
POPULATION HEALTH