

OCTOBER 2025 NEWSLETTER  
VOLUME 7 ISSUE 1

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The S.J. & Jessie E. Quinney  
College of Agriculture & Natural Resources  
**MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

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S.J. & Jessie E. Quinney  
**College of Agriculture & Natural Resources**  
**UtahStateUniversity**

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## Letter from the Program Director

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It's such an exciting time for our Master of Public Health (MPH) program in Public Health Nutrition and Veterinary Public Health! I'm thrilled to share that we've officially achieved initial accreditation through the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH)—a major milestone that reflects the hard work and dedication of our amazing students, faculty, and public health partners. We are especially grateful to our stakeholders for their engagement and support throughout this important process.

Our MPH program now calls the newly merged S.J. & Jessie E. Quinney College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (QANR) home. This new college is an excellent fit for our mission and dedication to improving the health of people, animals, and the environment. It also strengthens our One Health approach and creates exciting opportunities for collaboration across disciplines.

Enrollment in our programs continues to grow, and our students and alumni are doing incredible work tackling complex public health challenges during a challenging time in the field. I am hopeful for the future of public health and I am grateful for the passion, creativity, and partnership within the public health community.

Take care,  
Mateja R. Savoie Roskos



### MATEJA SAVOIE ROSKOS

PHD, MPH, RD, FAND

DIRECTOR, QANR MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAM  
ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR ACADEMIC  
PROGRAMS AND STUDENT SERVICES  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR



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## Welcome to the Fall 2025 Cohort

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We are excited to welcome each of you to the Master of Public Health program and to the start of an important new chapter in your academic and professional journey. This fall, we are proud to have 18 new students joining the Public Health Nutrition program and eight new students in the Veterinary Public Health program. Each of you brings unique experiences, perspectives, and goals that will enrich our courses and community.

As you begin the semester, remember that this is a time to be curious, to challenge yourself, and to build connections with your peers and faculty. Graduate study is as much about collaboration as it is about learning, and you will find many opportunities to apply your knowledge to real-world public health issues.

The coming months will be filled with new ideas, discussions, and discoveries. We encourage you to take advantage of every opportunity - to ask questions, seek mentorship, and get involved. You are now part of a vibrant and growing community dedicated to improving health in diverse populations.

Welcome to the MPH program. We're glad you're here!



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## iHelp Foundation Trip to Uganda

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This summer, one of our faculty members, Casey Coombs, had the opportunity to travel to Uganda with the iHelp Foundation to support their health initiatives and apply public health tools developed through our MPH program. One of the goals of this particular trip was to pilot a nutrition assessment protocol created by a current MPH student, Kimberlee Creech. This protocol was designed to help community organizations systematically evaluate children's nutrition status and guide evidence-based improvements in their feeding programs. It provided a toolkit with detailed instructions on how to conduct different anthropometric measurements (weight, height, mid-upper arm circumference), information on how to calculate and interpret z-scores, and assessment forms that organizations can use to organize and keep records of children's growth.



The collaboration with iHelp was made possible through a meaningful connection with Savannah Daines, our previous MPH Program Coordinator, who also serves as the Executive Director for iHelp. KCM, one of iHelp's community partners in Uganda, reached out to Savannah interested in training and resources to strengthen their nutrition programs. KCM provides care and rehabilitation for children who have been rescued from trafficking, child sacrifice, and other harmful experiences. In addition to providing rehabilitative services for children, they also operate a school for over 600 children ages 5-18. (continued)



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## iHelp Foundation Trip to Uganda

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Using the new nutrition assessment protocol, KCM staff continue to collect and analyze data on the nutritional health of children in their care. These results will help the organization demonstrate to stakeholders how well their program is supporting children's nutrition needs and identify areas for improvement in their meals and other services. KCM has already adjusted meal plans for specific children based on their findings and iHelp will continue to be involved in KCM's nutrition programs in the future.



To ensure long-term impact, staff were also trained to use the World Health Organization's (WHO) Anthro software, which allows them to track children's growth patterns over time. This will help them detect early signs of malnutrition and intervene before more serious outcomes occur.



A second component of Kimberlee's project created a literature review that can be used to introduce the need for a program like this to other current (and future) partners of iHelp. Utilizing what was learned while implementing this nutrition monitoring protocol at KCM, a basic literature overview on the prevalence and impact of childhood malnutrition and an explanation of why and how monitoring protocols are implemented was created to encourage organizations like KCM to implement these important programs. (continued)



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## iHelp Foundation Trip to Uganda

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This project represents the best of what applied public health can offer, bridging academic learning with community-driven solutions. The partnership between USU's MPH program, iHelp, and KCM demonstrates how student innovation, academic programming, and international collaboration can strengthen local systems and improve health outcomes for vulnerable children around the world. We look forward to continuing our work with iHelp and supporting their goal to improve the health of underserved communities around the globe.

Click [here](#) to learn more about the work of iHelp.

Click [here](#) to learn more about KCM.



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## Student Nutrition Access Center Highlight

The Student Nutrition Access Center (SNAC) at Utah State University serves as the campus food pantry, supporting student well-being through access to nutritious food, education, and community engagement. During the 24-25 school year, SNAC provided food to 4,952 individuals through 30,663 pantry visits, distributing over 211,000 pounds of food.



Beyond addressing food insecurity, SNAC coordinates food recovery efforts on campus and provides practical learning opportunities for students across various disciplines, especially those in the Master of Public Health (MPH) program. This partnership enables MPH students to implement public health ideas in real-world settings, focusing on projects related to food systems, health equity, and community nutrition. These projects include analyzing food access issues, developing nutrition education materials, and promoting healthy, sustainable choices on campus. (continued)



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## Student Nutrition Access Center Highlight

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SNAC benefits from the MPH program's research skills and data analysis, while students gain hands-on experience in community program planning and assessment. This collaboration links academic knowledge to practical application, supporting USU's objectives of student achievement, community involvement, and health equity. Together, SNAC and the MPH program strive to enhance food security and public health in the Aggie community.

For more information about SNAC please visit [usu.edu/snac](https://usu.edu/snac).



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## UPHA Call for Abstracts

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The Utah Public Health Association is currently accepting abstracts for the 2026 Utah Public Health Conference, scheduled for March 24–25, 2026, at the Cultural Celebration Center in West Valley City, Utah.

The conference seeks innovative proposals aligned with the theme “Past, Present, Future: Honoring the past, navigating the present, and designing the future of public health.”

Breakout session tracks include:

- Clinical Health
- Community Health
- Community Health Workers
- Environmental Health (One Health)
- Evaluation and Quality Improvement
- Health Data & Epidemiology
- Health Equity
- Health Policy
- Leadership in Public Health
- Mental Health
- Rural Health
- And more



**Utah  
Public Health  
Association**

Abstracts for breakout sessions are due December 5, 2025. Submissions for oral presentations, panel sessions, and lightning rounds are also due December 5, 2025. Abstracts for poster submissions are due January 16, 2026

For more information, click [here](#).



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## Upcoming Events

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# UTAH ONE HEALTH SYMPOSIUM 2025

NOVEMBER 5, 2025  
CEDAR CITY, UTAH  
[DETAILS HERE](#)



# RURAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF UTAH CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 12-13, 2025  
ST GEORGE, UTAH  
[DETAILS HERE](#)



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## Upcoming Events

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**UTAH ACADEMY OF  
NUTRITION AND DIETETICS  
CONFERENCE**  
MARCH 17-18, 2026  
LAYTON, UTAH  
[DETAILS HERE](#)



**UTAH PUBLIC HEALTH  
ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE**  
MARCH 24-26, 2026  
WEST VALLEY CITY, UTAH  
[DETAILS HERE](#)



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## Follow Us on Social Media

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Be the first to hear about everything public health related by following our social media accounts. This is a great way to stay up to date on program changes, public health events, job openings, project or internship opportunities, scholarships, and more!

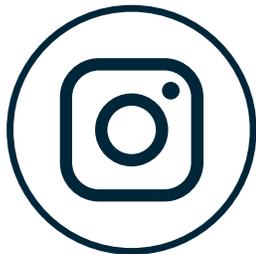
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