

SERVICE-LEARNING FACULTY FELLOW

◆ Jennifer Griffith ◆

Department of Health Policy and Management



Jennifer received her BA in Biology from TAMU in 1998 and then joined the inaugural class of Masters students at the School of Rural Public Health (now SPH) where she received her Masters of Public Health in 2000. She completed her Doctor of Public Health at the University of North Carolina- Chapel Hill in 2004. Jennifer returned to TAMU and SPH in 2008 where she teaches various courses, manages and facilitates practicum experiences, and works with local, regional, state and national public health partners in the area of public health preparedness and emergency response.

PHPM 684: Public Health Policy Management Practicum

Over the past decade, public health funding at state and local levels has decreased, resulting in fewer staff, resources, and programs to provide public health services to a growing population. In addition, workforce challenges, including shortage areas/professions and aging and retirement exist. These challenges can impact the ability to secure practicum experiences in LHDs for future members of the workforce, SPH students. However, these challenges also highlight need and potential long-term impact of a service-learning relationship that creates student practicum experiences.

Working with LHDs on practicums will allow students to apply knowledge and skills learned in the classroom, engage in critical thinking and problem solving, and experience first-hand the impact they can have on improving the public's health. LHDs will have the opportunity to explore and pilot new ideas and potentially take on projects and activities that might otherwise strain their current staff and resources.

Over the coming year, Dr. Griffith will work to develop and evaluate a framework, informed by service-learning best practices and research, to create practicum experiences within LHDs for SPH students. Future application of the framework to create other practicum experiences, beyond LHDs, is anticipated.



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