

Speakers —2023 Alaska Health Education Summit

Wendy Williamson Auditorium



Dr. Kathy Young, Assistant Dean, Alaska WWAMI School of Medical Education

Summit Introduction and Warm-up

Kathy Young is a family physician who serves as the Assistant Dean of the WWAMI School of Medical Education which in partnership with the University of Washington School of Medicine – is Alaska’s Medical school. She attended Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland for medical school before completing a residency in Family Medicine at the University of North Dakota. She has been in practice as a family physician in Anchorage since 1998 and joined WWAMI in 2011 to engage her second passion for teaching.



Debbie Craig, Dean of the UAA College of Health

Welcome

Dr. Craig joined the UAA College of Health in July 2022. Previously, she served at Northern Arizona University (NAU) in Flagstaff, Arizona for nearly 20 years as Professor and Program Director of Athletic Training (AT) and Associate Department Chair. Under her leadership over 16 years, NAU created a new accredited undergraduate AT program that grew from 7 students in a Bachelor’s program to a Master’s degree program on two campuses hosting 45-50 students. She ended her time at NAU as the Associate Dean of the College of Health and Human Services at NAU. Dr. Craig’s expertise ranges from full-time clinical work in athletic departments at NCAA division I institutions to teaching sports medicine topics in the classroom to performing and disseminating research through numerous presentations and publications. Her research focuses on sport concussions, medial tibial stress syndrome, and various knee injuries. She was the principal investigator for the NCAA and US Dept of Defense Mind Matters grant program, where her group was one of 8 selected nationally to perform sport and/or military concussion research. Dr. Craig’s finds the following values essential in leading the UAA College of Health, Alaska’s primary engine of health care workforce development for the state: pursuit of diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice within healthcare systems and society; ethical and fair practices concerning faculty, staff, and students; and building relationships with the health care communities in Alaska.



Dr. Kendra Sticka, Associate Dean of Clinical Sciences at the UAA College of Health

College of Health & AHES Overview

Kendra Sticka is a registered dietitian and worked in clinical practice for ten years prior to starting full time at UAA as a faculty member and program director of the Bachelor of Science in dietetics. She currently serves as the Associate Dean of Clinical Health Sciences in the College of Health. She is strongly committed to helping students find academic paths that are meaningful to them and supporting them in being successful through that pathway. Sticka is a “home-grown” Alaskan, born and raised in Anchorage.



Gloria Burnett, Director of the Alaska Center for Rural Health & Health Workforce

Summit Conclusion & Next Steps

Gloria Burnett is the Director of the Alaska Center for Rural Health and Health Workforce-Alaska’s AHEC Program. The Center is located at the University of Alaska Anchorage and is composed of a Program Office and 6 regional AHEC Centers located across the State. Gloria has over 12 years of experience in healthcare workforce development, youth career pathway programming and health continuing education. Prior to her current position, Gloria served as the Dean of Students at Ilisagvik College.

Keynote Speaker of the 2023 Alaska Health Education Summit

“Approaching Your Career Journey
Through a Growth Mindset”



Shannon Uffenbeck, Ph.D.

Dr. Shannon Uffenbeck is a professor and medical education learning specialist for the WWAMI School of Medical Education at the University of Alaska, Anchorage. She has both a B.S. and M.S. in Biological Sciences from the University of Alaska, Anchorage, and a Ph.D. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from the University of Alaska in Fairbanks. Shannon wears many hats for Alaska WWAMI but her passion for helping students become life-long learners impacts all aspects of her work. As the Alaska WWAMI learning specialist, she helps students transition to the challenging academic landscape found in medical education by helping them utilize effective learning strategies that increase their efficiency and confidence. As an instructor, she teaches cell physiology to first-year students and has designed a WWAMI-wide question-based learning curriculum that is utilized during our program’s integrative learning weeks. At the undergraduate level, Shannon has recently created an MCAT prep course designed to prepare students for the academic rigors of medical school while studying for the MCAT. And finally, as a pre-med advisor, Shannon has supported students from a wide variety of career paths as they prepare to apply to medical school.

While Shannon’s professional work revolves around helping students find confidence and joy in life-long learning, her personal life focuses on helping her three children grow into kind and confident human beings and enjoying as much of the Alaskan outdoors as she can squeeze into the balance.

UAA Program Panels — 2023 Alaska Health Education Summit

Rotation option one—Location: PSB 166 at 9:45am, 10:15am & 10:45am



WWAMI School of Medical Education with Dr. Kathy Young

Kathy Young is a family physician who serves as the Assistant Dean of the WWAMI School of Medical Education which in partnership with the University of Washington School of Medicine – is Alaska’s Medical school. She attended Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland for medical school before completing a residency in Family Medicine at the University of North Dakota. She has been in practice as a family physician in Anchorage since 1998 and joined WWAMI in 2011 to engage her second passion for teaching.



UAA ISU Doctor of Pharmacy Program with Mara Seingemartin, BS

My name is Mara Seignemartin, BS. I have worked in an infusion pharmacy for over 12 years and then in education for approximately 10 years. My professional career has always been in healthcare of some kind, even though I am not a clinician. My passion is for higher education in the health sciences. I am fortunate enough to be the Alaska Programs Coordinator for the Doctor of Pharmacy program here at UAA, through Idaho State University. I serve student needs, assist with recruitment, manage fiscal budgets, support student success, and serve on several administrative committees.



MEDEX Northwest Physician Assistant Program with Teresa Lowe, PA-C

Teresa Lowe is a Lecturer for the University of Washington Medex Northwest Physician Assistant Training Program. She received her undergraduate degree from UAF in 2003 and completed Medex PA training in 2005. She is originally from Mountain Village and now resides in Anchorage with her family. As someone who is passionate about helping others, she strongly supports students who are interested in the health professions.



CU/UAA Occupational Therapy Program with Current Students

Rotation option two—Location: PSB 110 at 9:45am, 10:15am & 10:45am



Medical Laboratory Science with Grace Leu Burke

Grace Leu-Burke is a clinical microbiologist with over 35 years of experience. Completing her master’s degree from Michigan State University in 2016, Grace accepted a tenure track teaching position at the University of Alaska Anchorage. She currently the MLS Program Director teaching clinical microbiology, molecular diagnostics, transfusion medicine and research methods. Her research interests surround the environmental impact and public health risk from urban wildlife.



Surgical Technology in the School of Allied Health with Nicole Clementi

I am Originally from NYC and moved here to Anchorage in September of 2021 where I took a job at Providence as a Certified Surgical Technologist working in the operating room. I have been a CST for 22 years and have traveled all over the United States working in various healthcare settings. I was brought on as the Director of the Surgical Technology Program in August 2022 and have welcomed and embraced this wonderful opportunity to be part of the UAA family as well as the students who enter the program. I will continue to provide and support this great program with the knowledge and experience I have gained throughout my career and pay it forward to my students.



Alaska Center for Rural Health and Health Workforce with Ian McCarthy

Ian is an Education Coordinator for Alaska’s AHEC. He leads programming from high school healthcare career exploration camps to the Rising Scholars program for college students interested in pursuing healthcare with undecided majors. He graduated from Carleton College with a BA in Chemistry. As a past premed student and past medical assistant, insight and experience inform his program development and motivate him to make the healthcare field more representative and locally-informed.

UAA Program Panels — 2023 Alaska Health Education Summit

Rotation option three—Location: PSB 216 at at 9:45am, 10:15am & 10:45am



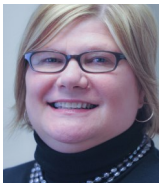
Center for Human Development's Behavior Analysis Training with Chris Sturm

Chris is the Clinical Director for Effective Behavior Interventions at UAA's Center for Human Development. He is a Licensed Behavior Analyst consulting with teams who support children and adults experiencing complex, challenging behaviors. Working in homes, community settings and schools throughout the state, the primary goal of his work is to keep individuals with complex issues in their home communities. Chris started as a Direct Service Provider back in the early 90s and has come full circle to work with challenging behaviors because he sees the lifelong impact it has on the individual. What brings him into situations is the problem behavior, but what keeps him doing this work is seeing the change in the individual's quality of life.



Justice Center with Ryan Fortson

My name is Mara Seignemartin, BS. I have worked in an infusion pharmacy for over 12 years and then in education for approximately 10 years. My professional career has always been in healthcare of some kind, even though I am not a clinician. My passion is for higher education in the health sciences. I am fortunate enough to be the Alaska Programs Coordinator for the Doctor of Pharmacy program here at UAA, through Idaho State University. I serve student needs, assist with recruitment, manage fiscal budgets, support student success, and serve on several administrative committees.



School of Social Work with Kathi Trawver, Ph.D., LMSW

Dr. Kathi Trawver is a Professor of Social Work and Coordinator of the UAA BSW Program. She has extensive Alaskan-based social work practice experience that informs her teaching and research. She uses community-driven research methods to identify service gaps and improve responses to people experiencing often intersecting impacts of homelessness, mental illness, substance use, justice involvement, and trauma.



Human Services Programs with Seta Kabranian-Melkonian, Ph.D., MFA

Seta Kabranian-Melkonian, Ph.D., MFA Seta Kabranian-Melkonian is an assistant professor in the Department of Human Services and practicum specialist for the program. She is the coordinator for the Human Services AAS degree and teaches practicum seminar. Before moving to the U.S. she led a non-governmental organization to assist victims of war and refugees in her birthplace, Lebanon and Armenia. Her interest remains to be migration due to war and social justice.

Rotation option four—Location: PSB 210C at at 9:45am, 10:15am & 10:45am



Division of Population Health Sciences with Kristin Stoepler, M.S.Ed

Asst. Professor Stoepler has 15+ years experience in community health education, program and supervisory management, and academic and career counseling. Asst. Professor Stoepler currently serves in the Division of Population Health Sciences at UAA as faculty member for the undergraduate Health Sciences program and as the programs coordinator. Asst. Professor Stoepler is a certified health education specialist and has focused her efforts on improving access to reproductive health care and high quality inclusive sexual health education. Additionally, Asst. Professor Stoepler spent the earlier part of the pandemic on a COVID-19 response team responsible for training and rapidly deploying contact tracers in partnership with the State of Alaska's Division of Public Health and ACRHHW. Outside of work, Asst. Professor Stoepler enjoys getting out in nature with her partner and two Australian Shepherds, Loki and Thor.



Dietetics and Nutrition with Amy Urbanus

Amy Urbanus is a registered dietitian nutritionist (RDN) and certified diabetes educator. She is an Assistant Professor of Dietetics and Nutrition and the program director for the Bachelor of Science in Dietetics. Amy has worked in the Anchorage area for over 20 years with an emphasis in chronic disease management.



Health, Physical Education & Recreation with TJ Miller, M.Ed.

J is the chair of the Department of Health, Physical Education & Recreation. After growing up in Colorado and moving to Alaska in 2002, T.J. found his new home. He has a bachelor's degree in outdoor recreation leadership and a master's degree in adult education: curriculum and instruction. He has been an outdoor educator for over 20 years. He is a Wilderness Education Association Certified Outdoor Leader, Wilderness First Responder, and avalanche instructor. He has a relentless passion for outdoor pursuits and loves including his son and daughter who enjoy rafting, hiking, skiing, biking and fishing.

Breakout Sessions— 2023 Alaska Health Education Summit

Research and Research Opportunities in the College of Health

Rotation option one—Location: PSB 110 at 2:00pm & 2:30pm



Dr. Holly Martinson is an Assistant Professor in the WWAMI School of Medicine at the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA). She received her Bachelors of Science degree in Biochemistry from UAA in 2008. She went onto graduate school at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus where she received her Ph.D. in Cancer Biology in 2014. She moved back to Alaska in 2014 and began studying cancer health disparities among the Alaska Native people. As an Assistant Professor, her overall research goal is to identify early detection biomarkers and novel therapeutics that can be used to reduce Alaska Native cancer health disparities.

Dr. Gabriel Garcia is a Philippine-born, Alaska-grown, Professor of Public Health. He has been a faculty at UAA since 2008, and has been serving as the coordinator of the Master of Public Health Program since 2017. His research interests include racial/ethnic health disparities, social determinants of health, and health promotion and disease prevention. As part of his service, he is currently one of the health commissioners in the Anchorage Health Department.



Britteny M. Howell, Ph.D. is a Credentialed Professional Gerontologist and Certified Dementia Practitioner at UAA. She is an Assistant Professor in the Division of Population Health Sciences and Director of the UAA Healthy Aging Research Laboratory.

Transitional Changes—Adapting to College Life

Rotation option two—Location: PSB 166 at 2:00pm & 2:30pm



Dr. Melissa Reed is a mother of three and a nana to two beautiful grandchildren. She lives in Ketchikan and loves to read, cook, and be outdoors. She is a nurse with more than two decades of experience, working most of her career in the emergency department. and completing critical care transports. Currently, she enjoys teaching within the School of Nursing. A part of her passion is Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing, assisting others in unveiling tools to adapt and work through stressful experiences and personal transitions.

AHEC: Building a Stronger Community for a Brighter Future

Rotation option three—Location: PSB 109 at 2:00pm & 2:30pm



Samantha Wanner is an Alaska Area Health Education Alumni, completing the program in 2021. During her time with the University of Alaska Anchorage, she published two articles with Dr. Britteny Howell in the Healthy Aging Laboratory and was a Community Engaged Student Assistant (CESA) to Dr. Travis Hedwig in Health Sciences. Ms. Wanner currently works with 673rd Medical Group on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson supporting the orthopedic clinic. In addition to her career and scholastic ambitions, Ms. Wanner is the reigning Miss Chugiak Volunteer and was recently selected to represent Alaska at the Cherry Blossom Festival Program in Washington, D.C.