



Healthcare Administration Newsletter

Department of Public Health
College of Health and Human Services

What's New?



Dr. Grace Lartey, Interim Department Chair, Social Work and Public Health

I have been at WKU since 2006. I served as Program Coordinator for the BS Public Health, BS Health Sciences and the Master of Public Health programs. I love working with the students and enjoy the mentorship that I have been able to offer. Go TOPS!

OTHER NEWS:

DR. GREGORY ELLIS-GRIFFITH received the *ACHE Recognition Award* which honors individuals who have demonstrated outstanding contributions through their volunteer service to the KY chapter and the profession at large!

Master of Health Administration and Global Health Administration Program Revisions: Both the Master of Health Administration and Global Health Administration Graduate Certificate have been revised and updated, effective AY 2025. For more information, visit www.wku.edu/mha

TEACHER DEVELOPMENT GRANT, Summer 2025, awarded to Melanie Eaton and Dr. Michelle Reece to attend the American Hospital Association's Inaugural Sustainability Summit in support of new course and certificate developments.

GRANT STUDY COLLABORATION with MUSC, Fall 2025, awarded to Nadia Khan, titled "Impact of Case Study Competitions on Competency Enhancement for Undergraduate Healthcare Administration Students".

DR. WILLIAM MKANTA is on sabbatical through fall semester 2025.

Staff Spotlight: Dr. Gregory Ellis-Griffith

Gregory Ellis-Griffith started at WKU in August of 2010 and is currently an Associate Professor of Health Care Administration in the Department of Public Health. Often referred to as "Dr. Greg" by students and colleagues alike, he provides service in many capacities to include Graduate Program Coordinator, HCA; Board of Directors, American College of Health Executives (ACHE), KY Chapter; Finance Committee, Association of University Programs in Health Administration (AUPHA).

Dr. Ellis-Griffith loves the student-centered focus of WKU and the Department of Public Health. During his time here, he has witnessed how the university has positively impacted the lives of its students.

Earlier this year, Dr. Ellis-Griffith and his wife, Chandra, celebrated 20 years of marriage. Together, they have three children: Aiden, 14, and two twin boys, Alex and Andrew (8). Recently, they added a family pet, Bagel.



Events

LeadingAGE & Global Ageing Network Conference

November 2-4

HCA Advisory Committee Meeting

November 7

MUSC Case Competition

November 13—14

THA LEGISLATIVE DAY ON THE HILL

February 17

HCA Advisory Committee Meeting

March 26

Shaping the Future: an SHA Event

March 26

KHA 97th Annual Convention

May 18—20

CAHME Bootcamp

March 1st

ACHE CONGRESS

March 2 - 4

JUMP Program... Did you know you can earn graduate course credits toward the completion of your Master of Health Administration graduate degree at WKU, for the cost of undergraduate tuition rates, WHILE you are still an undergraduate student in the Health Care Administration or Health Sciences programs??? Well you can!

To see if you qualify and for more information, contact your designated program advisor or Dr. Ellis-Griffith at Gregory.Ellis-Griffith@wku.edu today!

- A minimum of 60 credit hours earned and 15 or more credit hours remaining to complete the undergraduate degree.
- A minimum of 24 undergraduate hours earned at WKU.
- A minimum cumulative undergraduate GPA of 3.25 for individuals earning their first baccalaureate degree.
- A minimum cumulative undergraduate GPA of 3.00 for individuals earning their second baccalaureate degree.

Master of Health Administration (MHA) Student Spotlight: *Ellie Browning*

My name is Ellie Browning, and I am a senior Healthcare Administration major with a Long-Term Care Administration, undergraduate certificate, at WKU. I am also part of the JUMP Program and will begin my Master of Health Administration (MHA) studies here at WKU in the spring semester. After completing the MHA program, I plan to move to Chicago and pursue a career in the long-term care field. My long-term goal is to become a director of an assisted living or long-term care facility, where I can help provide seniors with the highest quality care and support.

I recently accepted a position as a Student Ambassador Intern with Vision-Centre, a national organization dedicated to promoting aging services. Through this role, I am excited to advocate for the field of aging services across WKU's campus and collaborate with other interns to gain deeper insight into the long-term care industry.



Study Abroad in Tanzania! Date: June 4 – July 4, 2026 FACULTY LED SINCE 1975

Subjects: Public Health, Nursing, Social Work, Service-Learning Practicum

Courses: HCA 459/559 Global Health Service-Learning Practicum, NURS 317-1 Comparative Health Care and NURS 317-2 Nursing Service-Learning Practicum, SWRK 490-1 Family Grief & Loss and SWRK 490-2 Social Community Service Practicum.

Program Cost: \$5,595 + airfare

Deadline to Apply:

Dec. 1: *Apply Early & Save \$100*

Feb. 5: *Regular Deadline*

Earn 3–6 credits



For more information, contact Dr. William Mkanta
at William.Mkanta@wku.edu

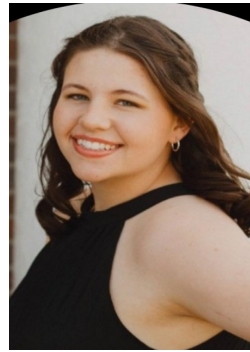
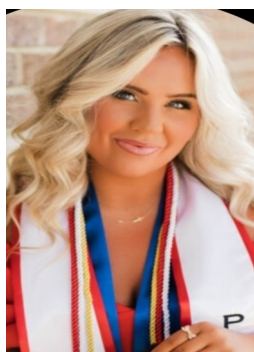
and/or visit <https://www.kiis.org/programs/tanzania/>



STUDENT HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATION

Want to be more involved? Want to maximize your networking opportunities? Want more learning experiences outside of the classroom? **JOIN SHA TODAY!!!**

Pictured (L to R): Hallie Cassady, President; Bryce Johnson, Vice President; Conner Kingery, Student Liaison; Sydney Alley, Public Relations; Sam Burke, Outreach Director



For more information or to join SHA, contact Hallie Cassady

hallie.cassady642@topper.wku.edu

OR Conner Kingery conner.kingery373@topper.wku.edu

Welcome Mr. Steve Jantz, Our Newest Member of the HCA Advisory Committee!

As CEO of Hospice of Southern Kentucky (HSK), my responsibility is not only to encourage my team, but also to inspire young students interested in a healthcare career. Our Medical Director provides monthly rotations as electives in end-of-life care for medical students, Interns, and Fellows at the Med Center, via the UK Medical School. Additionally, our ancillary and nursing depts offer WKU social work and nursing internships to enable students to learn more about our mission at HSK and our place in the healthcare sector. Offering a business-type internship should also be available to students, and we provide that for the HCA program.

My MBA, with a concentration in Health Services Management, was very similar to the WKU HCA and Master's in Health programs. I believe I can contribute from my school and work experiences over the last 30 plus years in the healthcare industry by supporting and hopefully enhancing the student's knowledge before getting a job. HSK provides a specific type of healthcare to those facing a terminal illness. Learning how the healthcare system works in hospice and the importance of cost savings in our nation's health system is important for students to understand.

In addition to serving on the HCA Advisory Committee, Mr. Jantz has supported the HCA Program at WKU as Preceptor in the internship program, hosting off campus tours for integrative class experiences and attending Student Healthcare Association (SHA) events such as Shaping the Future.





2025 Leading Age and Global Ageing Newwork Meeting

MHA and BSHCA students attended the 2025 LeadingAge Annual Meeting and Global Ageing Network in Boston, MA. This is an event of over 6,000 attendees that brings together a community of individuals focused on serving older adults and addressing the challenges and opportunities of global aging, in addition to the largest expo in the aging services field. Students were able to hear from renowned speakers and innovative programs such as José Andrés, founder of World Central Kitchen, and recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and the Cycling Without Age: Film Screening. Funding for this opportunity was provided by the [Healthcare Administration Foundation](#) that supports student activities and scholarships for the HCA program!



Pictured (L to R): Rylee Mullins, Hannah McIntosh, Ellie Browning, Cori Covington

Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) Undergraduate Case Competition



BSHCA students competed and received fourth place overall at the 5th Annual Undergraduate Health Administration Case Competition in Charleston, South Carolina, November 13th-14th! This case competition was open to any AUPHA undergraduate program member, and is designed to allow students to participate in finding solutions to relevant healthcare issues, while building necessary professional development skills. Funding for this opportunity was provided by the [Healthcare Administration Foundation](#) that supports student activities and scholarships for the HCA program!

Pictured (L to R): Britton Rowe, Sydney Alley, Josalyn Sparks, Conner Kingery

Unity in Action, 2025

The WKU Department of Public Health co-sponsored this interactive event that was designed to foster dialogue and partnership around key issues affecting the child welfare system. This year's focus is on poverty and its effects on the child welfare system, strategic solutions for change.

Pictured (L to R): Darnez Pope, MSHI, RHIT; Zach Farley, PhD, MPH; William Mkanta, PhD; Grace Lartey, PhD



Student Scholarships: NEW!

The [Healthcare Administration Foundation](#) is utilized to support student activities in the Health Care Administration Program. Beginning Fall 2026, two new student scholarship will be available for undergraduate and graduate students. More information coming soon!