



Bridging the Gaps

2023 Health Action Report



Combining health-related service for under-resourced populations
with community-responsive training of future health and social service professionals

About BTG

Our Mission

Bridging the Gaps (BTG) links the provision of health-related service for under-resourced populations with the interprofessional training of health and social service professionals.



As we complete our 33rd program year, we are humbled and grateful for the many people and

organizations at the heart of Bridging the Gaps.

With over 6,200 alumni and more than 600 past and present community partners, BTG remains invested in the development of future health and social service professionals, while simultaneously offering additional staffing to organizations who serve the most vulnerable. As the needs around us continue to shift and deepen, BTG strives to remain agile and focused on creating a more equitable world.

Thank you for being a part of this meaningful work.

With much gratitude,
Lucy Wolf Tuton
for the BTG Network

BTG Network

PHILADELPHIA CONSORTIUM

Hillary Bogner, MD, MSCE
University of Pennsylvania

Joan I. Gluch, PhD, RDH, PHDHP
University of Pennsylvania

Elissa Goldberg, MSS, LSW
Drexel University
BTG Program Director

Maria Hervada-Page, MSS
Thomas Jefferson University
BTG Program Director

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Drexel University

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Temple University
BTG Program Director

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BTG Program Director

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Drexel University

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BTG Executive Director

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Thomas Jefferson University

Brian Work, MD, MPH
Temple University

Jerome Wright, BA
Temple University
BTG Program Director

Vincent J. Zarro, MD, PhD
Drexel University

COOPER MEDICAL SCHOOL OF ROWAN UNIVERSITY

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Cooper Medical School of Rowan University
BTG Program Director

Anthony L. Rostain, MD, MA
Cooper Medical School of Rowan University
BTG Program Director

LAKE ERIE COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE (LECOM)

Leah Labranche, PhD
Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine
BTG Program Director

Noelle R. Thielman, PhD
Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine

LEHIGH VALLEY HEALTH NETWORK

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DeSales University
BTG Program Director

Abby S. Letcher, MD
Lehigh Valley Health Network

Mary Ellen T. Miller, PhD, RN, PHNA-BC
DeSales University
BTG Program Director

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

Brandi Boak, MPH
University of Pittsburgh

Thistle Elias, DrPH, MPA
University of Pittsburgh
BTG Program Director



About BTG

BTG 2022-23 Advisory Board

Mary Ellen Bradley, MSW
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Drexel University
Dornsife School of Public Health

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University of Pennsylvania

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Community Advocate

Willie D. Little, MSW
Community Health Advocate

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Pennsylvania Primary Care Office
Pennsylvania Department of Health

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Executive Director
Project HOME

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Truist Wealth

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Past President
American Public Health Association

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Former Vice President
Merck Vaccine Division
*Former Colorado State Health
Director*

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Community Organizer

Mick Weeks, MPA
Strategic Account Executive
Higher Education
Jamf

Dwayne Wharton, MEd
Founder and Senior Advisor
Just Strategies



BTG Alumni Network (BTGAN)

The BTG Alumni Network (BTGAN) provides opportunities for collaboration and mentorship among former student participants. [Join Today!](#)

If you are already a member, please join our [Alumni Directory](#).

BTGAN is a lifelong opportunity for collaboration, mentorship, and fellowship. We continue to grow our platform, highlighting inclusion, diversity, and equity.

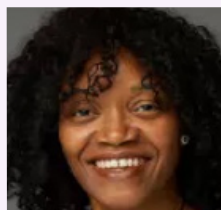
This year has been productive and enriching. As a collective, we launched our mutual mentorship pilot; participated in the BTG

retreat; expanded our speaker series; increased our LinkedIn presence; conducted a marketing brainstorming workshop; added a BTGAN liaison position; and focused on increasing our intergenerational and interdisciplinary connectivity, with roots in the community. Now more than ever, we need healthcare providers with a strong social justice orientation. Being that kind of professional in a rapidly

changing world is an infinite journey, and BTGAN provides alumni with incredibly valuable opportunities to learn and teach as we work to eradicate health inequity. We look forward to continued progress, as we explore how alumni can benefit from the exceptional human capital that is BTG.

Warmly,
The BTG Alumni Network (BTGAN)

BTG Alumni Network Co-Chairs



Marjorie
Dejoie-Brewer, MD
BTG CHIP 1993



Jennifer
Comerford, MJ, OTR/L
BTG CHIP 1997



Roopali
Kulkarni, DMD, MPH
BTG CHIP 2016

About BTG

BTG Program Components

CHIP (All Locations)

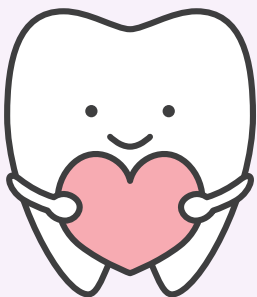
BTG Community Health Internship Program

BTG CHIP is a summer internship that matches students with community agencies/organizations, taking into account community site needs, professional disciplines and student interests. Whenever possible, students work in interprofessional teams. Students also participate in didactic sessions where community members and health professionals help them gain the skills and knowledge to be effective providers for under-resourced populations.

In the fall, BTG program locations host their own symposia to engage community representatives, public health officials, agency personnel, grantmakers, and university faculty and staff in the work of the program and to provide students with the opportunity to present their summer projects. The Annual Philadelphia Symposium includes representation from all program locations.

BTG Chip Programmatic Themes

Given the prevalence and impact of oral health, smoking, and cardiovascular disease on overall health, BTG offers students access to mentors and tools to support health education and activities at the community level. In 2023 [students created robust educational resources](#) on these topics.



BTG 2023 TO DATE FACTS & FIGURES

CHIP TO-DATE

643 Community Sites Served

since inception

438 Philadelphia	75 Erie	13 Lehigh Valley	40 New Jersey
67 Pittsburgh	9 Reading	3 Other Locations	

6,259 Students Participated

since inception

4,997 Philadelphia	446 Erie	116 Lehigh Valley	201 New Jersey
476 Pittsburgh	14 Reading	9 Other Locations	

135,580 Days of Service Provided

from 2000-2023

102,066 Philadelphia	11,975 Erie	3,036 Lehigh Valley	5,284 New Jersey
12,632 Pittsburgh	345 Reading	242 Other Locations	

OTHER PROGRAMS TO-DATE

BTG Seminar Series

Fall 2003 - Spring 2024

2,877 Students

Attended at least one seminar; some attended multiple seminars

BTG Community Health Rotation Program

Fall 2003 - Spring 2024

384 Students

Completed the Community Health Rotation Program

BTG Community Health Scholars

Fall 2006 - Spring 2024

235 Students

Graduated as Community Health Scholars

About BTG

BTG Program Components (continued)

Other Programs (Philadelphia Only)

BTG Seminar Series

This series draws on the expertise of participating community partners and academic health centers. The sessions are designed to augment professional curricula in various content areas and to offer concrete strategies for addressing issues affecting under-resourced populations. For many of these seminars, BTG now offers continuing education credits for alumni, community and academic partners, and others.

BTG Community Health Rotation Program

This advanced community rotation experience offers students a collaborative interdisciplinary approach to health and healthcare delivery for under-resourced populations.

BTG Community Health Scholars Program

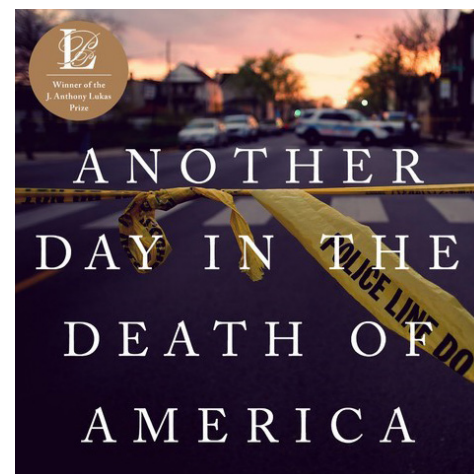
Students who complete the BTG CHIP, Seminar Series, and Community Health Rotation Program graduate as BTG Community Health Scholars.

Storytelling Project



The [Storytelling Project](#) provides students with an opportunity to gain perspective from a representative community member. Students are introduced to the topic of “narrative medicine” as the basis of the project and are encouraged to use the medium of their choice (audio, video, painting, drawing, writing, etc.) to represent the story. (See [the student project summaries](#).)

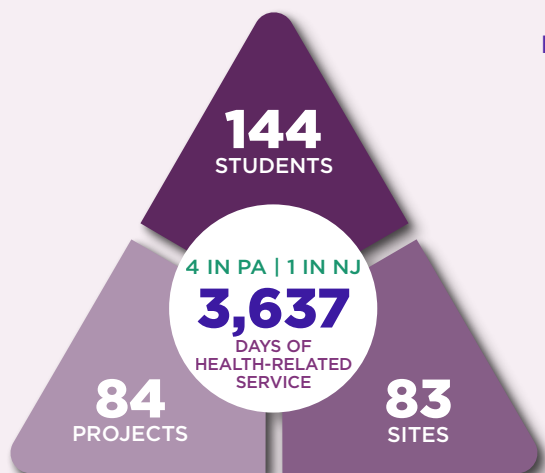
The 33rd Annual Symposium



BTG held a [virtual symposium](#) on October 19, 2023, including Storytelling Project highlights, a message from BTG alumni, and an interactive poster session. **Gary Younge** received the 2023 BTG award and delivered the keynote speech. Mr. Younge is a writer, broadcaster, and professor of sociology at the University of Manchester. His book, *Another Day in the Death of America: A Chronicle of Ten Short Lives*, served as the central text for BTG in 2023.

BTG 2023 FACTS & FIGURES

CHIP 2023



Professional Disciplines

- Creative arts in therapy
- Dental medicine
- Health and rehab sciences
- Medicine
- Nursing
- Pharmacy
- Public health
- Social work
- Veterinary medicine

OTHER 2023

BTG Seminar Series

127

Students

Attended at least one seminar

BTG Community Health Rotation Program

22

Students

Participated in the Community Health Rotation Program

BTG Community Health Scholars

19

Students

Graduated as Community Health Scholars



PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINES

- Creative arts in therapy
- Dental medicine
- Medicine
- Nursing
- Public health
- Social work
- Veterinary medicine

STUDENT ACTIVITIES*

- Advocacy
- Assessing community resources
- Client interviews
- Community outreach
- Community social activities
- Health-related client education
- Linking clients with health resources
- Planning/organizing or implementing health/recreational activities

COMMUNITY HEALTH ISSUES*

- Access to healthcare
- Budgeting/personal finances
- Childcare
- Communication (language/literacy)
- Diet and nutrition
- Insurance/social services
- Mental health
- Oral health
- Poverty



* Information reflects only those categories reported by 40% or more of the students participating at this program location.

Philadelphia Program Participants

Participating Institutions†

Drexel University
 Temple University
 Thomas Jefferson University
 University of Pennsylvania

Philadelphia Small Group Leaders

Tariem Burroughs
 Pat Dooley
 Elissa Goldberg
 Teresa Mendez-Quigley
 Rayn Philips
 Darcie Rudolf

Anthony Singleton
 Sara Solomon
 Nikki Thomas
 Crystal Wortham

† Lehigh Valley, Drexel University Reading, and Cooper Medical School students participated in Philadelphia's core curricular sessions.

“ BTG interns help our program exponentially. Not only do they bridge the short-term gaps in staffing, etc., during busy times of year, but they also go out into the world and develop new programs that benefit our population, building on the foundation of knowledge they learn here. Their future advocacy for students with disabilities is an incredible benefit.

Julie Conway
 HMS School for Children
 with Cerebral Palsy

“ BTG has always been a valued partner, and the BTG interns have again played a vital role in our summer youth services. Having the support of the interns allows us to consistently provide educational, enriching, and entertaining summer programming for the youth and families we serve.

Katie Barnhart
 Red Shield Family Residence
 at Salvation Army

“ The BTG interns who have served Covenant House have expanded our resources and knowledge of organizations in the community. They continue to be resourceful and have afforded their own talents and gifts to meet our young people where they are. This has proven, time and again, to be instrumental in solidifying a trust relationship within the medical community. This has been inestimable.

David O. Maddox II
 Covenant House Pennsylvania

Philadelphia Consortium



Philadelphia Program Participants (continued)

DREXEL UNIVERSITY

Program Staff and Faculty

Elissa Goldberg, MSS, LSW
Program Director
Laura Mullin, MS

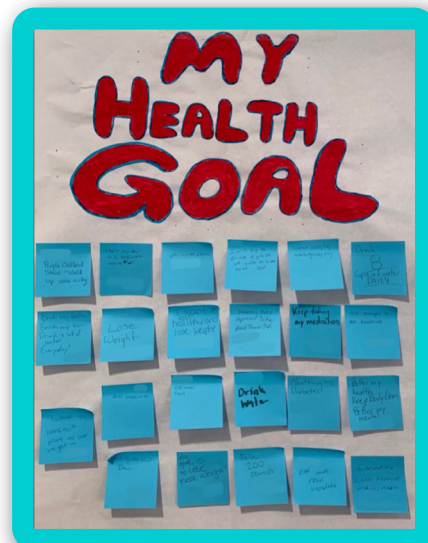
Academic Preceptors

James Buehler, MD
Tariem Burroughs, PhD
Charlene Chen, MD
Esther Chernak, MD, MPH, FACP
Annette B. Gadegbeku, MD
Jeremiah Goldstein, MD
Barbara Hogan-Zarro, PhD
Zach Kassutto, MD, FAAP
Angela Kim, MS, MD, FAAP
Renee Kottenhahn, MD
Steven Peitzman, MD, FACP
Kristen Ryczak, MD
Emily Spengler, MD
Daniel Taylor, DO, FAAP, FACOP
Kelley White, MD
Vincent J. Zarro, MD, PhD

Community Preceptors

Karisa Barlow
Nikki Brown, MSW
Daniel Ceva
Nicola D'Souza, MPH, LSW
Jonathan Deutsch, PhD, CRC, CHE
Patrycja Dziekonska, MPH
Dawn George, MS, PsyD
Rita Guevara, MD
Diane Hardie
Joni Helton
Wayne Ingram
Josh Irving

Geremi James, LSW, MSW
Debora King, MA, LPC, ATR-BC
Amos Koffa, MSW
Renee Kottenhahn, MD
Heather Kuzowsky
Conny Lockwood
Harry Louis
Chris Pender
Rayn Phillips, MSW, LSW
Sara Popkin, MSW, LSW
Brendan Sculley, MSW
Rachel Sherman
Emily Spengler, MD
Kathryn Stroup, MD
Daniel Taylor, DO
Kate Timer, MSW
Renee Turchi, MD, MPH, FAAP
Lori Walsh, MPPM
Kevin Weber, BA
Krista Wieder, MBA



“ I hope to work alongside social workers and other members of the healthcare team in order to be able to improve our society on a deeper level than just curing individuals’ illnesses alone. This type of interdisciplinary collaboration is the future of healthcare, and I hope to be a part of making that future better for all of us.

Santiago Appiani
Temple University
Lewis Katz Medical School

“ Connection is pivotal to building meaningful relationships with people. My BTG internship has increased my interest in working with vulnerable and/or economically disadvantaged populations. I can be a more effective social worker by practicing a strengths-based approach, being empathetic, and valuing people’s backgrounds and cultures.

Sheba Daniel
Temple University
School of Social Work

“ I am truly grateful to have had the opportunity to work with the youth and staff. [It] has allowed me to see firsthand the need for resources and dedicated individuals to help this population. I was glad to get to know the amazing kids this summer and the hardworking employees that help keep this program running. Prior to BTG, I thought that I would not be good at working with adolescents, but this opportunity has led me to want to pursue working in this area.

Brooklyn Gabriel
College of Population Health
Thomas Jefferson University

Philadelphia Consortium

Philadelphia Program Participants (continued)

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY

Program Staff and Faculty

Ingrid Mapanao, MSW, MPH
Program Director
Jerome Wright, BA
Program Director
Brian Work, MD, MPH

Academic Preceptors

Ingrid Mapanao, MSW, MPH
Brian Work, MD, MPH
Jerome Wright

Community Preceptors

Dana Barnes, LSW
Katie Barnhart, MSW
Alejandra Castano, MSW
Meg Finley
Deanna Handy
Shirley Moy, MSW
Cleo Smalls, MBA
Charmaine Sudler-Milligan, MSW

“ *This is one of the many lessons that I learned and will carry on with me into my career as a future physician: We are not here to save, but to support, connect with, listen, and serve those under our care as future healthcare providers. I'm so grateful for my experience as a BTG intern and all the invaluable lessons I will take with me throughout my life.*

Eveé Blake

University of Pennsylvania
Perelman School of Medicine

“ *BTG has greatly impacted the perspective of my future career as a physician. I have gained a myriad of new information, insight, and resources. My future will not just involve healing people but will most importantly be aligned with being the bridge to resources, from mental health services to housing services. My experiences this summer will challenge me to think outside the box in order to provide my future patients with options for a better, healthier, and happier quality of life.*

Rodaina Ahmed

Drexel University
College of Medicine

THOMAS JEFFERSON UNIVERSITY

Program Staff and Faculty

Maria Hervada-Page, MSS
Program Director
George P. Valko, MD

Academic Preceptor

Maria Hervada-Page, MSS

Community Preceptors

Lexy Chavez
Kara Friesen
Jenna Gosnay, MSW, LSW
Andrew Gudzelak
Zakiyyah Harris
Christina Kubica, MSW, LSW
Dustin Latimer, PA-C
Tarae Morton
Devon Taylor

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Program Staff and Faculty

Ellen Martinak, MS
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Hillary Bogner, MD, MSCE
Zvi D. Gellis, PhD
Joan I. Gluch, PhD, RDH, PHDHP
Bridget McCormick, MS
Ann L. O'Sullivan, PhD, FAAN, CRNP
Christopher Renjilian, MD
Lucy Wolf Tuton, PhD
Brittany Watson, VMD, PhD, MS, DACVPM

Academic Preceptors

Hillary Bogner, MD, MSCE
Zvi D. Gellis, PhD
Joan I. Gluch, PhD, RDH, PHDHP
Ann L. O'Sullivan, PhD, FAAN, CRNP
Christopher B. Renjilian, MD
Brittany Watson, VMD, PhD, MS, DACVPM

Community Preceptors

Mariana Argüelles, MSW
Jaya Aysola, MD, MPH
Beverly Bradley

Brad Cary
Angelo Cirrincione
Julie Conway, SLP
Amy Eckendorf, LSW
Kate Fox, DrPH(c), MPH
Teresa Giardina, MSEd
Stephanie Haynes
Mercy Howard, BA
Dorothy Johnson-Speight, PhD, MHS, LPC
Traci Kennedy, MPA
Rebecca Keuch, MSN, CRNP
David Maddox, MSW
Ana Bonilla Martinez
Nya McGlone, MS
Lynette Medley, MEd
Ed Miller
Yarelli Morales, MPH
Jiana Murdic, MS
Betsy Neiva, PhD
Ieshia Nelson, MEd
Steve Niederriter, MBA
Nicole Sage
Shaketia Sills
Anthony Singleton
Lorraine Thomas
Dianne Uwayo, MPH



Philadelphia Community Partners

12Plus
African Family Health Organization (AFAHO)
American Heart Association
Beyond Literacy (BeLit)
Broad Street Ministry
CCIU Migrant Education Program
Center for Advocacy for the Rights and Interests of Elders (CARIE)
Center in the Park
Children First
Corporal Michael J. Crescenzo Veterans Affairs Medical Center
Covenant House Pennsylvania
Depaul USA, Philadelphia
Drexel Food Lab
Educators for Education (E4E)
Einstein Immunodeficiency Center
Einstein Pride Program
Frankie's World Foundation
Gaudenzia Philly House Women's Program
Gaudenzia Together House Men's Program
Get Fresh Daily
Hall Mercer
Heights Philadelphia
HIAS and Council Migration Services of Philadelphia
HMS School for Children with Cerebral Palsy
Legacy Youth Tennis and Education
Lenfest Center for Community Workforce Partnerships
Lutheran Settlement House
Mazzoni Center
Mental Health Partnerships, The Well and A New Life
Mothers in Charge, Inc.
Nationalities Service Center
No More Secrets:
Mind Body Spirit Inc.
North Light Community Center
Northern Children's Services
Philadelphia Department of Public Health Ambulatory Services
Philadelphia Family Pride
Philadelphia FIGHT: Youth Health Empowerment Program
Prevention Point Philadelphia
Programs Employing People
Puentes de Salud
Red Shield Family Residence at Salvation Army
Smith Memorial Playground and Playhouse
Social Needs Response Team (SNRT) at Penn Medicine
Southwest Community Development Corporation
St. Christopher's Hospital for Children
Center for Children and Youth with Special Healthcare Needs
Center for the Urban Child
Center for the Urban Child, Collaborative Primary Care Clinic
Summer Meals Program & CAP4KidsId
Students Run Philly Style
To Our Children's Future With Health
Unitarian Universalist House (UUH) Outreach Program
Visitation Homes
William Way Community Center
Wyss Wellness Center
Youth Emergency Service (YES)

“ *This rotation was easily my favorite during medical school. I formed meaningful connections with several students, making it the most rewarding and moving experience I have had thus far. ... [it] was unique because I usually encounter patients with chronic conditions in hospitals or clinics, at times when their bodies are most against them. However, this is not representative of the day to day for most of these individuals. [The experience] gave me a new appreciation for how patients with neurodevelopmental disorders function when their bodies are cooperating. This insight renewed my appreciation for the baseline of patients with chronic conditions.*

Aisha Bosula
Drexel University
BTG Community Health Scholar

“ *My summer ... has been unlike anything that I have experienced before. I was very nervous and was not quite sure what to expect. As the summer progressed, however, I began to feel much more comfortable and confident interacting with children with cerebral palsy ... I was able to uncover new ways of becoming a better advocate for the special-needs population. Witnessing how far they have come has motivated me to continue in my pursuits for more accessible healthcare across all disciplines*

Adeayo Adenusi
University of Pennsylvania
School of Dental Medicine

“ *I was intrigued upon hearing the ... challenges not only surrounding the [LGBTQ] community, but within it. I think this may be a reflection of the diversity of the LGBTQ community and the unique concerns that each person brings. I hope to continue engaging with queer individuals to gain new perspectives and deepen my understanding of their health needs.*

Scott Orlov
Sidney Kimmel Medical College
Thomas Jefferson University

“ *My perception of interprofessional teamwork has been greatly affected through my BTG experience. Working with a medical student and a dance therapist, I was able to observe how many similarities there were between all of our disciplines. I enjoyed our topics of navigating efficient patient care, the healthcare infrastructure, and ways we can become better in our future professions. ... I enjoyed asking questions about how I could make medical jargon easier to understand ... and what dance techniques are good to start with as a behavior-change approach. I had a great time working with them.*

Tahiyya Khan
Drexel University
Dornsife School of Public Health



PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINE

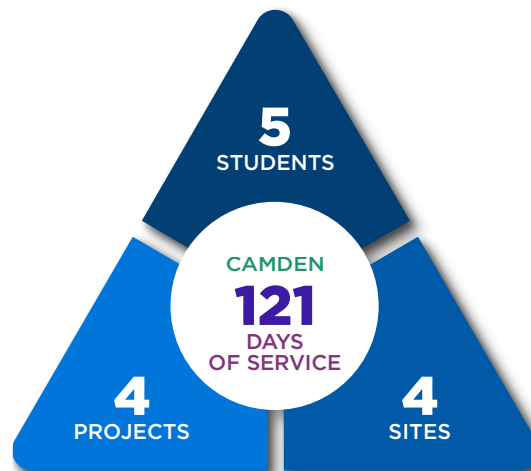
- Medicine

STUDENT ACTIVITIES*

- Advocacy
- Assessing community resources
- Client interviews
- Clinical care for a health problem
- Community outreach
- Community social activities
- Development or administration of surveys
- Evaluation of existing programs
- Health-related client education
- Health screening
- Linking clients with health resources
- Planning/organizing or implementing health/recreational activities
- Research on health/social/environmental topics
- Social service intervention

COMMUNITY HEALTH ISSUES*

- Access to healthcare
- Budgeting/personal finances
- Cardiovascular health
- Childcare
- Cultural health beliefs and practices
- Diet and nutrition
- Environmental health
- Exercise
- Homelessness/housing
- Insurance/social services
- Oral health
- Personal hygiene
- Poverty
- Race/ethnicity
- Sexual questions/issues
- STDs
- Substance use
- Teen pregnancy
- Transportation
- Women's health



* Information reflects only those categories reported by 40% or more of the students participating at this program location.

Program Staff and Faculty

Mara Gordon MD
Program Director
 Anthony Rostain MD, MA
Program Director

Academic Preceptors

Rosanna Eang, DO
 Mara Gordon, MD
 Anthony Rostain, MD, MA
 Thomas J. Wall, MD

Community Preceptors

Helen Hannigan
 Andre Lewellyn, MS
 Sierra Parksm, MA, LAC
 Joye Rozier, BSN, CSN, MPH
 Mouy Eng K. Van Galen, LSSGB
 Leigh Wilson-Hall, MSW, LSW

Community Partners

Camden Area Health Education Center (AHEC)
 Camden Coalition
 Center For Family Services
 Southern New Jersey Perinatal Cooperative (SNJPC)

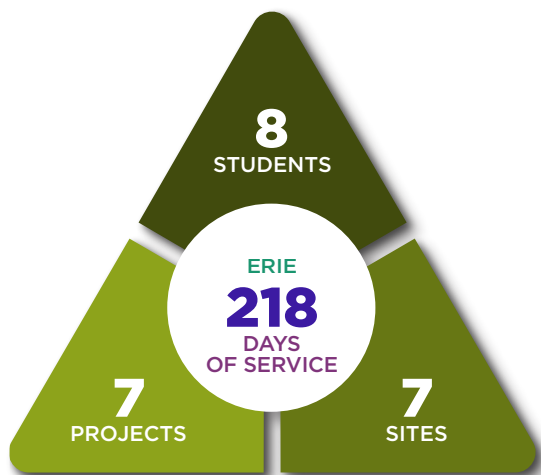
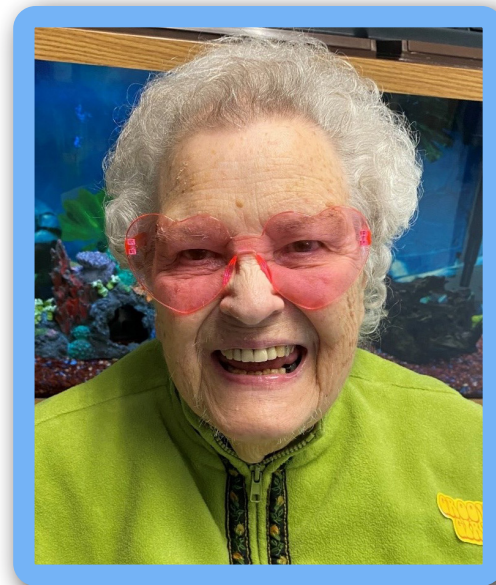
“ I feel the divide in my excessive graduate school vocabulary ... that I now fight to drop from speech, silently translating any thoughts phrased to lessen the chance of discomforting or embarrassing a person who did not have the opportunity to attend college or finish high school. I observe. I listen. I try to find the needs to fill them.

Karla Reid
 Cooper Medical School of Rowan University

“ I was unsure what to expect, but ... I can truly say it has changed the way I perceive community health. ... Building relationships with the clients showed me the value of longitudinal care and the importance of active listening in supporting someone as they face challenges. As I continue my journey with medicine, I aspire to care not only for the disease or condition but also the whole person.

Priya Shah
 Cooper Medical School of Rowan University

Lake Erie College Of Medicine (LECOM)



PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINE

- Medicine

STUDENT ACTIVITIES*

- Clinical care for a health problem
- Community outreach
- Community social activities
- Health-related client education
- Oral health activities
- Planning/organizing or implementing health/recreational activities
- Social service intervention

COMMUNITY HEALTH ISSUES*

- Access to healthcare
- Cardiovascular health
- Communication (language/literacy)
- Diabetes
- Diet and nutrition
- Exercise
- Insurance/social services
- Mental health
- Obesity
- Oral health
- Personal hygiene
- Physical disability

* Information reflects only those categories reported by 40% or more of the students participating at this program location.

Program Staff and Faculty

Leah Labranche, PhD,
Program Director
Noelle R. Thielman, PhD

Academic Preceptors

Colleen Cole-Jeffrey, PhD
Christopher Keller, PhD
Randy Kulesza, PhD
Leah Labranche, PhD
Jack Lee, PhD
Noelle Thielman, PhD
Robert Waters, PhD

Community Preceptors

Cynthia Bravo, BA
Ryan DiDomenico, NHA
Danielle Lesik, MA, LPC, MT-BH
Michele Maughn, BSN, DON
Jennifer Musone, PCHA
Hannah Perrin, RN
Jeffrey Stockhausen, NHA

Community Partners

Barber National Institute
Brevillier Village

LECOM Nursing and Rehabilitation
LECOM Senior Living Center
Millcreek Community Hospital
Behavioral Health
Parkside Regency at South Shore
Voices for Independence

“ I genuinely believe that anyone going into healthcare should go through an experience like BTG. The intricacies of the health of seniors are like nothing else I have seen before, and being able to understand how their needs differ is a skill that needs to be developed through experience ... I was surprised to see the varying levels of mental acuity and physical ability; this made it very important to get to know everyone as individuals. I can't wait to continue building relationships with my future senior patients using the skills I have learned here.

Kristin Keenan
Lake Erie College
of Osteopathic Medicine

“ My internship ... has helped me to understand the importance of patients having access to care for their mental health. I did not have much exposure to this field of medicine previously, but it impacts patients seen in every specialty. A child's early life experiences are going to remain with them their entire lives, and without access to mental healthcare, children may not ever be able to heal. I want to be a physician that is not afraid to discuss mental health issues with patients. Having access to care for one's mental health [not only] drastically improves a patient's quality of life but also the relationship with other parts of their overall health.

Samantha Sitarz
Lake Erie College
of Osteopathic Medicine



PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINES

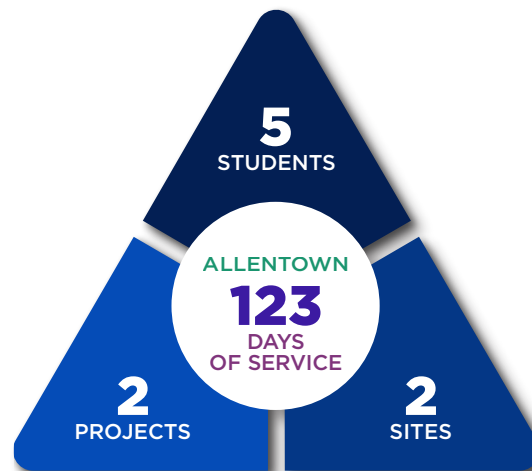
- Medicine
- Nursing

STUDENT ACTIVITIES*

- Advocacy
- Assessing community resources
- Client interviews
- Community outreach
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- Evaluation of existing programs
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- Health screening
- Literacy activities
- Oral health activities
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COMMUNITY HEALTH ISSUES*

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- Communication (language/literacy)
- Cultural health beliefs and practices
- Diet and nutrition
- Exercise
- Homelessness/housing
- Insurance/social services
- Oral health
- Personal hygiene
- Violence
- Women's health



* Information reflects only those categories reported by 40% or more of the students participating at this program location.

Program Staff and Faculty

Tricia Bernecker, PhD, RN
Program Director

Mary Ellen Miller, PhD, RN, PHNA-BC
Program Director

Abby Letcher, MD

Academic Preceptors

Tricia Bernecker, PhD, RN

Mary Ellen Miller, PhD, RN, PHNA-BC

Community Preceptors

Tina Amato, MS, RD, LDN

Hasshan Batts, DHSc, MSW

Jeani Garcia

Abby S. Letcher, MD

Laya Lopez

Andrea Wilson, DHSc, MEd

Community Partners

Alliance Hall Summer Recreation Program

Casa Guadalupe

Promise Neighborhoods of the Lehigh Valley (PNLV)

“ I have enjoyed forming connections with the staff and community members and learning from one another through interprofessional dialogues and community outreach. Learning about the community health needs has been rewarding, and I have enjoyed planning community events to educate on heart health, oral health, smoking cessation, and the Stop the Bleed event.”

Rana Moawad

Temple University
Lew Katz School of Medicine

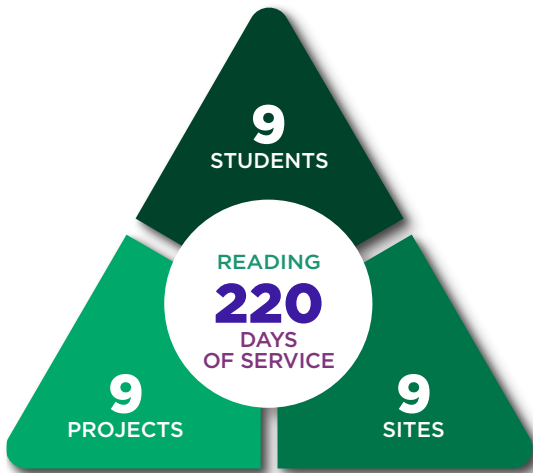
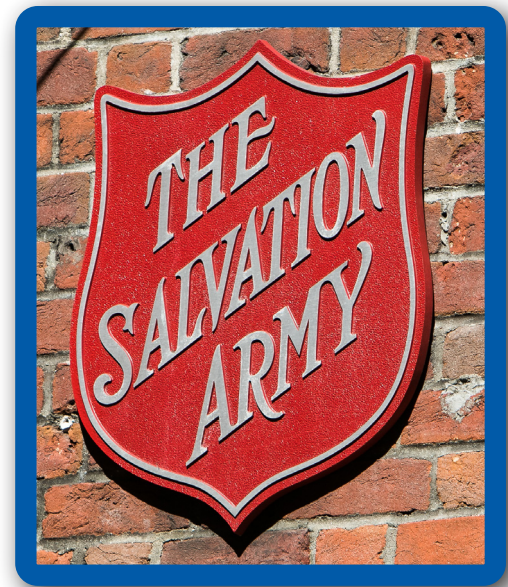
“ I've learned a lot about Allentown from working alongside and talking to my interviewee. [It] is a beautiful and diverse community where we can make connections, share stories and culture, and support one another with love. ... There are so many organizations and programs that are working to improve Allentown ... There are also so many opportunities to ... be part of the change that we want to see.”

Kayliyah Forbes

DeSales University
School of Nursing



Reading - Drexel University



PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINE

- Medicine

STUDENT ACTIVITIES*

- Advocacy
- Assessing community resources
- Client interviews
- Community outreach
- Health-related client education
- Linking clients with health resources
- Planning/organizing or implementing health/recreational activities
- Social service intervention

COMMUNITY HEALTH ISSUES*

- Access to healthcare
- Budgeting/personal finances
- Childcare
- Communication (language/literacy)
- Computer literacy
- Cultural health beliefs and practices
- Diet and nutrition
- Exercise
- Homelessness/housing
- Immigrant issues
- Insurance/social services
- Mental health
- Personal hygiene
- Poverty
- Transportation
- Violence

* Information reflects only those categories reported by 40% or more of the students participating at this program location.

Participating Institution

Drexel University College of Medicine at Tower Health

Program Staff and Faculty

Holly Metzgar, DO, FACOG, NCMP,
Program Director

Academic Preceptor

Holly Metzgar, DO, FACOG, NCMP

Community Preceptors

Christie Botterbusch
Santiago Castaneda
Lieutenant Hector Cid
Alexis Fick
Amy Folk
Christine Folk, RN
Jafet Jamie
Lieutenant Hyesoo Kim
Jeff Laylon
Lieutenant Melissa Lopez
Lori Lowery
April McNally
Marianghy Paulino
Aaron Rimeer

Virgen (Jeannie) Rubero

Ineavelle Ruizm

Michael Toledo

Rob Turchi

Jess Umbenhauer

Community Partners

Centro Hispano Daniel Torres
(Hispanic Center)

Helping Harvest Fresh Food Bank

Hope Rescue Mission

LGBT Center of Greater Reading

Mary's Shelter

New Journey Community Outreach

Olivet Boys and Girls Club

The Salvation Army of Reading

“ BTG has helped me better understand the role a physician plays in helping a community to thrive. That may not always mean prescribing a medication or performing a surgery—it may mean making sure a person has resources to live, eat, and connect with people. ... When I am a physician, I hope to have knowledge of local resources that will help me keep my patients healthy.”

Oliver Gibb

Drexel University
College of Medicine at Tower Health

“ ... I learned a great deal about what goes on behind the scenes at a huge nonprofit organization. Addressing many of the gaps pertaining to the social determinants of health inevitably comes with administrative burden, and by taking that responsibility, we reduce the burden of that on smaller local partner organizations who are focused on getting food out to community members. Ultimately, this experience opened my eyes to the true interconnectedness of the many organizations in Berks County who are focused on providing support for community members.”

Madhu Badri

Drexel University
College of Medicine at Tower Health



PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINE

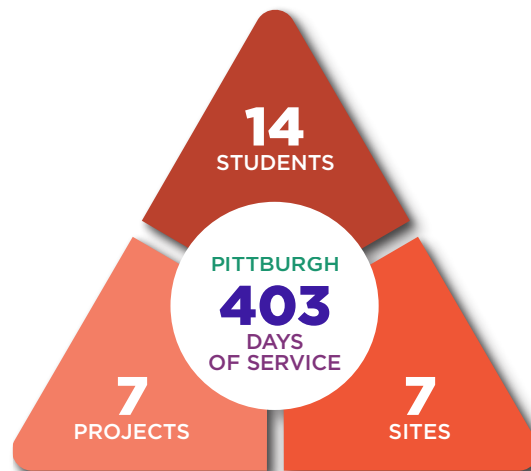
- Health and rehab sciences
- Nursing
- Pharmacy
- Public health

STUDENT ACTIVITIES*

- Assessing community resources
- Community outreach
- Community social activities
- Development or administration of surveys
- Health-related client education
- Literacy activities
- Oral health activities
- Planning/organizing or implementing health/recreational activities
- Research on health/social/environmental topics
- Teaching living skills

COMMUNITY HEALTH ISSUES*

- Access to healthcare
- Budgeting/personal finances
- Childcare
- Communication (language/literacy)
- Diet and nutrition
- Exercise
- Homelessness/housing
- Mental health
- Oral health
- Poverty
- Race/ethnicity
- Substance abuse
- Transportation
- Violence



* Information reflects only those categories reported by 40% or more of the students participating at this program location.

Program Staff and Faculty

Thistle Elias, DrPH, MPA,
Program Director
Brandi Boak, MPH

Academic Preceptors

Betty Braxter, PhD, CNM, RN, FAAN
Thuy Bui, MD
Sharon Connor, PharmD
Patricia Documet, MD, DrPH
Nina Markovic, BSDH, MS, PhD
Cynthia Salter, PhD, MPH
Jamie Zelazny, PhD, MPH, RN

Community Preceptors

Emmanuela Abraham
Sarah Crawshaw
Deborah Gallagher, MEd
Allison Haley, LCSW
Ives Letzo, BA
Deanna Sinex, PhD
Karen Upsher-Williams, MSW

Community Partners

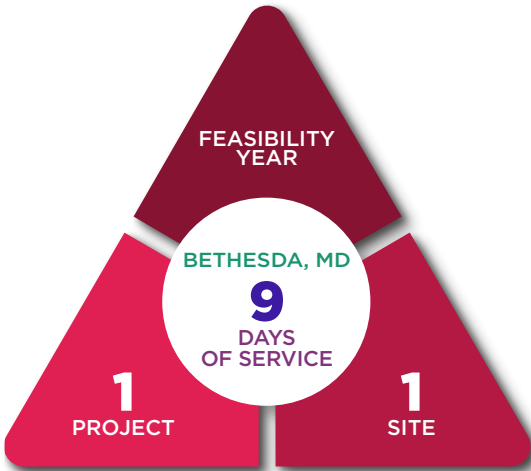
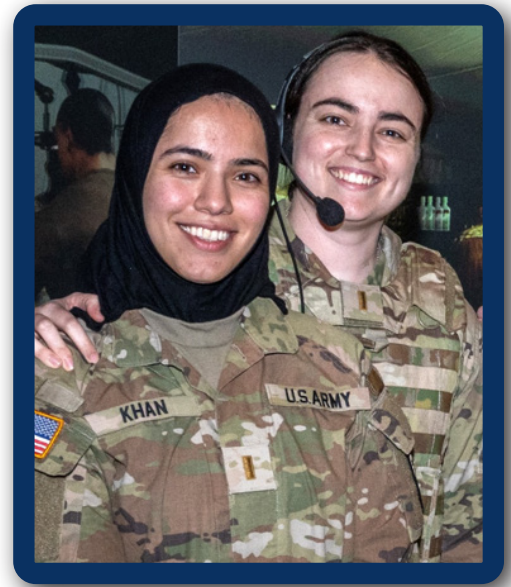
Center of Life
Council of Three Rivers American
Indian Center (COTRAIC)
Dragon's Den
Peoples Oakland
Sojourner House MOMS
Voices Against Violence
Youth Enrichment Services

“ I have learned that members are more than their symptoms; each member has strengths, aspirations, and goals. [My site] fosters an environment of ... empowering not only its members but also its staff and interns. I came out of this internship with a new understanding of needs, concerns, progress, empathy, trust, and communication. In short, the relationships I have made here will stay with me for a lifetime.

Carla Medina-Gil
University of Pittsburgh
School of Pharmacy

“ I applied to BTG because I wanted to experience and learn about a Pittsburgh community that was different from where I was living and have a hands-on experience helping them. My time ... has been very meaningful, and it really challenged my perceptions of myself and my abilities. [It] allowed me to gain a better understanding of how important and impactful early intervention efforts can be and see the effects of the social determinants of health in action. It was exciting to have the chance to design my own workshop and make activities for different groups. The positive relationships we built with the staff and children really made the experience worthwhile and enjoyable.

Mary Ross
University of Pittsburgh
School of Public Health



PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINE

- Medicine

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

- Advocacy
- Assessing community resources
- Community outreach
- Evaluation of existing programs
- Health-related client education
- Health status tracking
- Literacy activities
- Research on health/social/environmental topics

COMMUNITY HEALTH ISSUES*

- Access to healthcare
- Cultural health beliefs and practices
- Homelessness/housing

Program Staff and Faculty

Gena L. Glickman, PhD,
Program Director

“ BTG was a valuable exposure to community-based healthcare initiatives that seek to address socioeconomic disparities. I hope to one day draw on experiences like this in caring for our diverse population of service members and veterans.

Sahraïn Zahoor
USUHS
School of Medicine

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Anonymous

Anonymous SPH faculty

Martha A. Terry, MA, PhD

Reading

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* List in alphabetical order and may not include all sources of support.

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Center for Humanism

DeSales University

Division of Nursing

Physician Assistant Program

Treasurer's Office

Drexel University

College of Medicine

Dean's Office

Department of Educational Affairs

Department of Medicine

College of Nursing and Health Professions

Dornsife School of Public Health

St. Christopher's Hospital for Children

Thomas R. Kline School of Law

Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine

Lehigh Valley Health Network

Moravian University

The Helen S. Breidegam School of Nursing and Public Health

Temple University

Lewis Katz School of Medicine

Office of Student Support

Office of Health Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

College of Public Health

School of Social Work

Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Thomas Jefferson University

Sydney Kimmel Medical College

Dean's Office

Department of Community and Family Medicine

Jefferson College of Nursing

Jefferson College of Rehabilitation Sciences

Department of Occupational Therapy

Jefferson School of Population Health

University of Pennsylvania

Center for Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics

Perelman School of Medicine

School of Dental Medicine

School of Nursing

School of Social Policy & Practice

School of Veterinary Medicine

University of Pittsburgh

School of Dental Medicine

School of Medicine

School of Nursing

School of Pharmacy

School of Public Health

School of Rehabilitation



www.bridgingthegaps.info

Bridging the Gaps

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