

CURRICULUM VITAE

SPENCER LEON WILLIS, JR.

Department of Health and Human Performance
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EDUCATION

- 2014 Doctor of Public Health Candidate JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY, *Jackson, MS*
Major: Behavioral Health Promotion and Education
Dissertation: “*The Influence of Outcome Expectations, Support for Beverage Excise Taxes, and the Nutrition Environment on Beverage Intake Frequency among African American Young Adults: A Pilot*”
Advisor: D. Brown, EdD, MCHES
- 2009 Master of Arts THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA, *Tuscaloosa, AL*
Major: Health Studies (Health Promotion and Education)
Advisor: L. Turner, PhD, RD/LD
- 2008 Bachelor of Science ALCORN STATE UNIVERSITY, *Alcorn State, MS*
Major: Nutrition and Dietetics
Honors: Magna Cum Laude

CERTIFICATION

- CHES Certified Health Education Specialist, #18107 (October, 2010)
National Commission for Health Education Credentialing, Incorporated
Whitehall, PA

PROFESSIONAL SCHOLARLY INTEREST

My research interests span the areas of community nutrition and education, nutrition/food environment, and food policy, with a focus on African American health.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Academia

- Assistant Professor (Professional Track) /Coordinator** 1/2014 - Present
Academy for Health Potential
Department of Health and Human Performance
Texas A&M University – Commerce

Professional-Related**Abstract Reviewer**

4/2014

2014 National Conference on Health Communication, Marketing, and Media
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention & the Nation Public Health Information Coalition
Atlanta, GA

Directors of Health Promotion and Education (DHPE) Fellow

1/2013 – 12/2013

DHPE Health Promotion and Policy Fellowship Program
Mississippi State Department of Health, Office of Preventive Health
Jackson, MS

Research Associate I

6/2012 – 8/2012

Health Disparities Summer Pre-doctoral Program
Michigan Institute for Clinical and Health Research – The University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI

Public Health Educator (WIC Nutritionist)

4/2010 – 12/2012

Mississippi State Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program
G.A. Carmichael Family Health Center
Canton, MS

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Texas A&M University – Commerce

*Undergraduate***HHPH 420: Program Implementation and Evaluation in Health Promotion**

Fall 2014

Hours: 3

The course will include program implementation and evaluation in several health promotion settings.

HHPH 331: Nutrition

Summer 2014, Fall 2014

Hours: 3

Basic facts and principles of human nutrition are presented. Study includes the physiological and psychological factors of food intake and utilization with emphasis on nutrition education for dietary improvements of groups and individuals.

HHPH 410: Planning and Organization of Health Promotion

Spring 2014

Hours: 3

This course will involve program planning in the health promotion field, including needs assessment, missions, goals and field objectives of health promotion programs

HHPH 430: Health Promotion with Special Populations

Spring 2014

Hours: 3

This course will include learning about and developing health promotion programs for special populations such as older adults, children, and the physically challenged.

Jackson State University

Graduate

PHS 519: Health Program and Evaluation (Guest Lecturer)

Spring 2013

This course provides an overview of theories and application of program planning, implementation, and evaluation for public health programs while emphasizing essential components of program planning models and a range of evaluation objectives and designs.

VOLUNTEER/ABROAD EXPERIENCE

Public Health Outreach Volunteer

5/2012

ProWorld Volunteers and Service Learning
Cape Coast, Ghana

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS/CONFERENCES:

Directors of Health Promotion and Education, Minneapolis, MN

8/2013

Annual Members Meeting

Diabetes Self-Management Education in Mississippi's County-Level Public Health Clinics: Feasibility and Impact– (Presenter)

Empowering Communities for a Healthy Mississippi, Jackson, MS

5/2013

Annual Conference

Innovations in Health Literacy and Coordinated School Health – Panel discussion with Christine Philley, M.Ed & Estelle Watts, MSN, RN from MS Department of Education (Panel Moderator)

Mississippi Public Health Association (MPHA), Tunica, MS

9/2011

Annual Conference and Business Meeting

Informing Obesity Prevention Strategies: The Use of Self-Regulatory Text Messages in Improving Healthy Beverage Intake among Families Participating in a State's WIC Program – A Pilot Study: 2011 (Presentation & Poster)

Xavier University of Louisiana, New Orleans, LA

9/2011

4th Annual Health Disparities Conference

Measuring Impact of Text Messages, Tailored Print Material, and Standard Issued Brochures on Knowledge of Proper Infant Feeding Practices among Mothers Participating in the Mississippi WIC Program – A Pilot Study: 2011 (Poster)

Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH), Jackson, MS

9/2010

National Diabetes Education Program: Road to Health Toolkit NDEP Road to Health Toolkit-Diet & Nutrition Section: 2010(Presentation)

Jackson State University, Jackson, MS

4/2010

School of Health Sciences - Graduate Programs in Public Health
National Public Health Week

"Nutrition 101" – Powell Middle School 2010(Presentation)

The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL 9/2009
10th Annual Rural Health Conference – “Prevention: More Than Just an Apple a Day”
Green County KidCheck: PRECEDE-PROCEED Evaluation 2009(Poster)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA 8/2007
 Morehouse College
 Project: IMHOTEP Internship Final Presentations
Homicide Rates and Circumstances among Males Aged 15-34 in 17 States: The National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) 2007 (Presentation)

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING SESSIONS:

Directors of Health Promotion and Education (DHPE), Jackson, MS 3/2013
Shaping Policy for Health™ Course 4: Implementing Enacted Policies

Directors of Health Promotion and Education (DHPE), Jackson, MS 8/2013
Shaping Policy for Health™ Course 2: Using Policy Analysis Tools

Directors of Health Promotion and Education (DHPE), Jackson, MS 3/2013
Shaping Policy for Health™ Course 3: Influencing the Policy Change Process

University of Mississippi Medical Center, Jackson, MS 2/2013
Community Health Advocate Program

National Association of City and County Health Officials 2/2013
 Alexandria, VA
Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) Training

Jackson State University, School of Health Sciences, Jackson, MS 1/2012
Preconception Peer Educator Certification Training

Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH), Jackson, MS 9/2010
“BodyWorks” Train the Trainer Session

WORKS IN PROGRESS:

Willis, S., Dove, C., Brown, J., Hawkins, J., McCoy, J., Bowman, M., Bilbro, A., Short, V., and Gamble, A. “Improving Health in the Mississippi Delta through Policy, Systems, and Environmental, Change: The Mississippi Delta Health Collaborative, 2012”

Willis, S., Brown, D., Cannon-Smith, G., Bhuyian, A., Bennett, R., and Leggett, S. “Predicting Healthy Beverage Intake and Outcome Expectations among Southern Minority Adults: Application of the Self-Determination Theory”

GRANTS:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Atlanta, GA 2/2013
“State Public Health Actions to Prevent and Control Diabetes, Heart Disease, Obesity
and Associated Risk Factors and Promote School Health”
Amount Funded: Basic \$618,805 Enhanced \$1,119,272

American Academy of Pediatrics, Mississippi Chapter, Jackson, MS 3/2012
“Design and Implementation of a ‘Healthy Beverage’ Health Communication Campaign
among central Mississippi’s adolescents: An Application of the Self Determination
Theory (SDT)”
Amount Funded: Mini grant \$500.00