Economic Hard Times - What About Public Health?

The Association of the Schools of Public Health has estimated that 250,000 more public health workers will be needed by 2020. It notes that the current shortage is compounded by the fact that 23% of the current workforce, almost 110,000 workers, are eligible to retire by 2012. There are documented and forecasted shortages of epidemiologists, health care educators, and administrators. Without enough public health workers protecting us where we live work and play, we are all vulnerable to serious health risks. To replenish the workforce and avert the crisis, ASPH says that schools of public health will have to train three times the current number of graduates over the next 12 years.

The American Public Health Association web site states that new public health initiatives of the Obama administration are striving to improve the current status of public health in the United States. They include funding for:

- Prevention and Wellness Fund – These funds serve as an investment in prevention as an essential means to protect health in our nation and will help support the public health foundation that will be required for successful health system reform.
- Safety Net Programs – The bill includes funding for Medicaid, COBRA, the Food Stamp Program and unemployment benefits. Each of these safety-net programs ensures that in these difficult times people are able to access health services and meet their other basic needs.
- Public Health Work Force – Also included in the bill is funding to train and educate the public health professionals who are responsible for keeping us healthy.
- Health Information Technology – These funds are directed at modernizing the health system to lower costs and provide health services more efficiently and accurately. These funds will not only help save money and create jobs, but they will also help save lives.

The trends of the current public health workforce combined with the Obama Administration legislation all point to a very positive outlook for students desiring a public health career. Students earning degrees in any public health related field are gaining the knowledge and skills needed to fill numerous public health positions. The economy may not be in the best shape this year, but public health careers are a sector that is fast-growing!

Alumni Profile: Liya Aklilu

Liya Aklilu is a 2001 MPH graduate of the International Health and Development Department. After leaving Tulane, Liya worked with the Louisiana Office of Public Health and furthered her education by obtaining a second master's degree in applied anthropology. Liya's graduate programs and several professional positions included opportunities in foreign countries where she was able to utilize her intrapersonal and technical skills in monitoring, evaluation and research.

Currently, Liya is a Monitoring, Evaluation, and Research Manager (MER) with IntraHealth International. The organization has served the public health needs of developing countries for almost 30 years and has worked in more than 50 countries, with the support of the U.S. Government, foundations, corporations and individuals. As a Monitoring, Evaluation, and Research Manager, Liya is responsible for providing technical assistance for HIV/AIDS and human resources for health projects in South Sudan, Tanzania, and the Eastern Caribbean and travels frequently to these regions. Liya enjoys interacting with her counterparts in the field and conducting capacity building in MER.

There are various opportunities available with IntraHealth, ranging from technical positions to those related to program management and administration. Employment and internship opportunities are listed on the organization's employment homepage. Internships are sometimes compensated, depending on the funding availability. Liya frequently contributes to the SPHTM
## UPCOMING EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Resume Writing Workshop</td>
<td>Monday, September 14th</td>
<td>Noon - 1 pm</td>
<td>Room 1204</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interviewing Skills Workshop</td>
<td>Monday, September 21st</td>
<td>Noon - 1 pm</td>
<td>Room 1204</td>
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<tr>
<td>Job Search Strategies Workshop</td>
<td>Monday, September 28th</td>
<td>Noon - 1 pm</td>
<td>Room 1204</td>
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<tr>
<td>Networking At APHA Workshop</td>
<td>Monday, October 5th</td>
<td>Noon - 1 pm</td>
<td>Room 1204</td>
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**WE LOVE TO KNOW WHERE OUR ALUMNI ARE IN THE WORLD!**

The Tulane University Online Community is an online alumni career networking tool that allows students to connect with SPHTM alumni who are willing to give first-hand information about careers, employers, and the cities/countries in which they work. Current students and alumni who would like to utilize the network should register at: [www.tulanecommunity.com](http://www.tulanecommunity.com).

Note that your email will not be displayed publicly but may be utilized by searchers “blindly”. Alumni who join may also use the database to connect and network throughout their careers.