

Plenary Presenters

Nicole Alberti, MA, NCC

M.A., Counseling and Educational Psychology – University of Nevada, Reno, 2005

B.S., Health Science – University of Nevada Reno, 2001

Nicole is a Health Educator II at the Washoe County Health District, working in the Chronic Disease Prevention Program focusing on the risk factors of tobacco use and exposure.

Nicole also works with multiple community groups including the Washoe County Chronic Disease Coalition and Nevada Hispanic Services Education Committee. She currently serves as Secretary for Nevada Public Health Association's Northern Nevada Chapter.

Leslie Allen

Program Office, Cooperative Extension, University of Nevada, Reno

Jeanette K. Belz, MBA

Jeanette Belz graduated from the State University of New York (Albany) in 1979 with a B.A. in Economics and then attended Union University (Schenectady, New York) where she earned an M.B.A. in 1981.

Ms. Belz has spent a significant part of her career in the health care field as a consultant, administrator and association executive. In the mid-80's, she held various positions in the consulting services division of the Hospital Association of New York State, where she was responsible for technical assistance regarding hospital finances, reimbursement, and health care data systems.

Ms. Belz was then in charge of operations at a rehabilitation agency for the blind and visually impaired. In the early 90's, she focused her efforts on hospital advocacy as the Senior Vice President at the Northeastern New York Hospital Council.

In 1995, Ms. Belz moved to Nevada to accept the position of President/CEO for the Nevada Association of Hospitals and Health Systems. There, she served as the association's leading spokesperson and representative before the Nevada State Legislature and Congressional delegation, governmental bodies and the media.

In 1998, Ms. Belz joined Wadhams & Akridge where she represented the firm's clients in various public forums and assisted in developing government relations' strategies.

Ms. Belz established her own business consulting firm in 2000. She provides customized facilitation, mediation, governmental relations and special business services to trade/professional organizations, corporate and not-for-profit clients.

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Carter R. Blakey

Carter Blakey is a Senior Advisor in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (ODPHP), which plays a key role in developing and coordinating disease prevention and health promotion policy for the nation. Since joining ODPHP in 2001, Ms. Blakey has been instrumental in the implementation of the Department of Health and Human Services' prevention initiative, especially through Healthy People 2010 and Healthy People 2020 activities. As the Community Strategies Team Lead and a Senior Advisor to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health (Disease Prevention and Health Promotion), Ms Blakey leads and manages the Healthy People effort across HHS and other Federal Departments, as well as non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders. Before joining ODPHP, she worked on the development of Healthy People 2010 as a consultant. Her 13-year consulting career encompassed numerous activities in the health and biomedical arenas, including projects for the National Institutes of Health, the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment, the Council for Responsible Nutrition, the HHS Office of Public Health and Science, ODPHP, and the National Center for Health Statistics. Previously, Ms. Blakey worked in public affairs and government relations for the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology; as a managing editor for FDC Reports, Inc., a publishing company specializing in health and the pharmaceutical industry; and as a teaching/research assistant at Georgetown University, Department of Biology.

Jason Geddes, PhD

Jason Geddes' has managed to mix his two passions: public service and science. At the University of Nevada, he had a full time job in the biochemistry department, while working toward his BS and serving on student government. He continued his public service in student government as a PhD student, while his research and dissertation led prompted legislative changes on the transport and use of a chemical whose danger had only been previously suspected.

After college, Jason worked at a private lab, moving up to Director of Operations before his passion for service to the state pulled him to a job as senior petroleum chemist with the Nevada Department of Agriculture and coordinator of the state's fuels program. There, he dealt with the public and the legislature to help ensure the quality of fuels Nevadans use and the air we breathe.

In 2002, Jason returned to the University as the Environmental Affairs Manager, working on environmental testing and compliance, alternative fuels, waste reduction, and improving overall sustainability of campus operations.

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In 2002, Jason served in the Nevada State Legislature as an active member of the Education, Judiciary, and Natural Resources, Agriculture and Mining committees. He sponsored several pieces of legislation dealing with sustainability.

In 2006, Governor Kenny Guinn appointed Jason to the Nevada System of Higher Education Board of Regents, where he currently serves as Vice Chair.

In 2008, Jason became the first Environmental Services Administrator for the City of Reno, where he leads the Green Team, implements action plans and communicates with the public. He loves being able to use his science background to improve his favorite city in the world.

Michelle Gorelow, MAEd

Michelle Gorelow received a Bachelor of Science degree from Wilmington College, Wilmington, Ohio in 1994 and her Master's degree in education in 2003 from University of Phoenix. She has worked for the March of Dimes Nevada Chapter for eight years and the past five years as the Director of Program Services.

Jay Kvam, MSPH

Jay Kvam, a native Nevadan of Carson City, graduated from Carson High School in 2001. He then attended college at Claremont McKenna College in Los Angeles, California. While working on his undergraduate degrees, Jay travelled to Dakar, Senegal in West Africa and continued his studies thereafter in Paris, France. In 2005, Jay received a dual Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy and International Relations. Following his undergraduate education, Jay enrolled in Tulane University, School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine in New Orleans, Louisiana where he worked on a Master of Science in Public Health from the Department of Tropical Medicine. As his culminating project, Jay travelled to India to work on malaria and filarial control with the Society for Education, Action, and Research in Community Health (SEARCH). After receiving his Master of Science in Public Health in 2008, Jay returned to his hometown where he now works for the Nevada State Health Division as a Health Program Specialist.

Larry Matheis

Executive Director, Nevada State Medical Association

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Eric Ohlson, MSW

Eric Ohlson has a school administration credential earned through San Jose State University, an MSW degree from San Diego State University and B.A. degree from the University of California, Santa Barbara, where he majored in psychology. He is currently a Coalition Coordinator for Join Together Northern Nevada, a non-profit substance abuse prevention coalition based in Reno, where he is focused on strategic planning and community collaboration to prevent and reduce substance abuse. He also has experience as a non-profit director, school administrator, and school social worker. Eric was raised in San Mateo, California and currently lives in Reno with his wife, Lindarae and daughter, Leandra.

John C. Sagebiel, PhD, LEED AP

Dr. Sagebiel joined EH&S in March 2006 as the Environmental Affairs Manager. He holds a doctorate in Environmental Chemistry and a bachelor's degree in Environmental Toxicology, both from UC Davis, and holds a LEED Accredited Professional certificate from the US Green Building Council. He spent 14 years at the Desert Research Institute doing research primarily on air pollution including source characterization for gasoline- and diesel-powered vehicles, wood combustion and other sources. He also developed measurement techniques for photochemical ozone studies and real-time instrumentation for health impact studies. More recent work focused on alternative fuels, alternative energy and sustainability issues. He and his wife developed a sustainable zero-net-energy home in Reno that he continues to monitor and study. His role at EH&S is to assist in reducing the University's ecological impact, and in helping to ensure compliance with environmental regulations.

Michael Sanders, DMD, EdM, FACD, FICD, FPFA

Dr. Sanders is currently Professor and Interim Chair of Clinical Sciences, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, School of Dental Medicine. He has served as program chair for the Community Coalition for Oral Health and as Chair for the Nevada Dental Association Council on Access, Prevention and Interprofessional Services. He is Vice Chair of the Southern Nevada Dental Society Access Committee. He serves as a consultant to many boards and programs including the Nevada State Oral Health Program. He has been honored as fellow of the International College of Dentists and the American College of Dentists.

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Bill Story

Mr. Story currently works as a supervising planner within the State's Department of Transportation and manages Nevada's Bicycle, Pedestrian and Safe Routes to School Programs. He also serves as the State's Federally designated Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator. He has previously served as the first Nevada Safe Routes Coordinator and developed the Nevada Safe Routes to School program. Prior to coming to the Department of Transportation, Mr. Story served for 13 years as a Scientist with the State's Division of Environmental Protection working on mining, water quality, and environmental remediation issues.

Brad Towle, MA, MPA

Brad Towle, Health Program Specialist for the Bureau of Health Statistics, Planning, and Emergency Response and has twenty-three years experience working in state government. As an analytical chemist for the state of Montana he worked extensively with data and instrumentation. He was the State Laboratory Certification Officer for drinking water laboratories and performed on-site surveys to ensure laboratories were following EPA protocols and quality assurance procedures. Brad also served as a Healthcare Analyst for the state of Montana where he conducted mandated surveys of healthcare facilities and created databases to track and report these data. He also held public hearings for the Certificate of Need program and updated the State Healthcare Facilities Plan. Serving as a Human Services Program Officer in the Developmental Disabilities Program (Montana) he developed an outcome measurement system (Core Indicators Project). Brad also served as a Health Program Specialist for the Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Abuse (Nevada) for over six years and managed the Bureau's planning, evaluation and needs assessment activities. In addition, he was responsible for the State Synar program, the epidemiological profile for the Strategic Prevention Framework Grant, and implementation of a new, web-based, data system for substance abuse treatment and prevention. Brad managed the Children with Special Healthcare Needs program, the Newborn Screening program, and the Birth Outcomes Monitoring System (previously called the Birth Defects Registry) for one and a half years. He has been working in the Bureau of Health Statistics, Planning, and Emergency Response for about one year and analyzes Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance, birth defect, and newborn screening data.

Christine Wood, RDH

Chris Wood is the Executive Director of the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors, which is one of the affiliates of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officers. Prior to this, she was the Chronic and Communicable Disease Manager for the Nevada State Health Division. In this capacity she supervised the Oral Health, Diabetes Control and Prevention, Comprehensive Cancer Control, HIV Prevention, and Abstinence Only programs. She worked for the Nevada State Health Division for ten

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years. Prior to coming to work for the Health Division she worked as a dental hygienist in private clinical practice for 18 years.