



**SUMMER PUBLIC  
HEALTH SCHOLARS  
PROGRAM**

**2018 ALUMNI PROFILES**



## BLESSING IBIKUNLE-SALAMI

**School:** Indiana University Northwest

**About Me:** I recently graduated with a Bachelors of Science in Biology degree from Indiana University Northwest. My love for science and education has landed me a position as a 7th/8th science teacher in my current gap year before I go to dental school.

**Public Health Interest:** I have a vast amount of interests in different areas of public health. I am still trying to determine which area or areas will be my center of focus, but for now, some of my interest include Oral Health, Health Education, Health Literacy, Health Policy, Prevention, Health Disparities, Healthcare Administration and Clinical Healthcare.

**Career goals:** My primary career goal is to be a dentist. With my increasing interest in public health, I plan to get my MPH along with my dental degree. Two aspects that I want to incorporate in my future careers are education and service. Education reformer Horace Mann said, "Education is the great equalizer." Education provides upward social mobility because it gives people in the lowest strata of society the ability to advance their knowledge and themselves at the same time. When people know better, they can do better. Knowledge is power, educating yourself on different matters can create interest, bring awareness, and encourage social interaction. Although being a dentist is an opportunity to serve others, I would like to create something that is centered around the importance of service/giving back and public health, while still educating people on the importance of oral health.



## DWAYNE MARTIN-GOMEZ

**School:** Arizona State University

**About Me:** My name is Dwayne Martin-Gomez and I am currently a senior at Arizona State University majoring in Global Health. I am a native Arizonan and a first-gen student.

**Public Health Interest:** My public health interest includes the environment, Latinx community, and LGBT health

**Career goals:** My aspiring goals include becoming a nurse practitioner and working abroad in research.

## SYDNEY MORRIS- HILL

**School :** The University of Alabama

**About Me:** I am from Atlanta, Georgia and I study Public Health in Pharmaceutical Design. While In SPHSP I interned at NYC Health Department studying and working with community based organizations to promote maternal and infant care throughout NYC.

**Public Health Interest:** I am interested in maternal and infant medicinal care through pharmaceutical design.

**Career Goals:** I hope to become a Drug Information Pharmacist with the FDA in efforts to make safer medication for mothers as well as infants with minimal side effects and change the face of public health in the pharmaceutical industry!





## PRAMILA NEPAL

**School:** The University of Texas at Austin

**About Me:** I am a certified Nepali interpreter and a rising Social Work senior at The University of Texas at Austin

**Public Health Interest:** My public health interests include community health, socioeconomic issues, health disparities, and the social determinants of health.

**Career goals:** Upon graduation, I plan to pursue a Master's in Public Health and later on, an EdD/PhD.



## KEITH ACOSTA

**School:** Cornell University

**About me:** I deeply appreciate experiences and opportunities that allow me to perceive health and humanity from a variety of different perspectives. As a plant-based diet enthusiast, I love exploring the intersection of human, animal and environmental health.

**Public Health Interests:** LGBTQ+ Health, Health Equity, Preventative Medicine, Healthcare Access, One Health, Environmental Justice.

**Career Goals:** I hope to work in diverse communities as a public health physician within primary care in order to develop the skills necessary to address the ever-present shortage of primary care providers. It's my hope that balancing both prevention and treatment paradigms within clinical medicine will help alleviate the burden of numerous health disparities in our nation.



## STANLEY DUNWELL III

**School:**Amherst College

**About me:** I am from Atlanta, Georgia and of Jamaican descent. SPHSP has made me determined to affect change through public health.

**Public Health Interests:** I want to make the understanding of one's health more accessible to minorities through technology. I want to educate the public and change the way Black and Colored bodies view their health.

**Career Goals:** I plan to affect these changes by educating my own self and putting myself in a position to help others. I will start by getting my MPH and MD degrees which will enable me to enter the discussion and contribute to the solution from a multi-faceted perspective. I see myself starting in my own, as we say in Jamaica, "backyard" in Atlanta, educating the locals on their health. Later on, I want a seat at the table with those whose voices and votes directly impact bridging the gap in health disparities.



## JUAN JOSE GONZÁLEZ

**School:** Columbia University

**About me:** Juan is a current fourth-year studying both Environmental Biology and Environmental Science. A native of Santa Ana, CA, he hopes to eventually return to his home-state communities to implement large-scale projects aimed at bettering the environmental health of the most marginalized of communities.

**Public Health Interests:**  
Environmental Health

**Career Goals:** Environmental Health  
Work at the (California) State Level





## CHRISTIAN JAYLAN JACOBS

**School:** Emory University

**About me:** My name is Jaylan Jacobs and I'm from a small town south of Birmingham, Alabama. I am currently a junior at Emory University studying environmental science and public health.

**Public Health Interests:** The relationship between social determinants of health and the health impacts of climate change is really what interests me.

**Career Goals:** In the future, I plan to work to address the health impacts that will adversely impact low-income communities and communities of color as our world's climate continues to change rapidly from the burning of fossil fuels. Examples include increased asthma and respiratory disease due to high exposure of industrial pollutants or increased heat exhaustion or heat related deaths from extreme temperatures. This program provided invaluable knowledge of the different social determinants that impact health and how engrained they are in our society. All that I learned has really shaped my career goals and gave me a framework to begin addressing the issues I'm really passionate about. Thank you SPHSP!



## BRIANNA MATTHEW

**School:** Florida Institute of Technology

**About me:** Brianna is a Biomedical Engineering major from the U.S. Virgin Island of St. Thomas.

**Public Health Interests:** Cardiovascular Prevention  
Community Outreach, Epidemiology

**Career Goals:** M.D./ M.P.H. My goal is to draw awareness to the lack of adequate health care in the community of the United States Virgin Islands and provide more affordable, technology-advanced, equitable, and reliable healthcare by opening my own practice. My passion for pursuing a career in medicine stems from my hope of returning to my hometown to address such issues.



## DEANNA HAYDEN

**School:** Spelman College

**About me:** I am originally from Lorman, Mississippi. I enjoy traveling, hiking, watching television, and blogging!

**Public Health Interests:** I am most interested in communications with a primary focus on health promotion, women's health, and minority health.

**Career Goals:** My career goal is to become a social marketing and public relations director for a broadcasting network. I desire to use my background in public health to portray images that will positively impact the health outcomes of vulnerable populations.



## JOSEPH HAVERLOCK

**School:** Rutgers University

**About me:** I love to sing and play piano, and have performed for Barack Obama before. I also really like listening to podcasts.

**Public Health Interests:** I am most interested in communications with a primary focus on health promotion, women's health, and minority health.

**Career Goals:** I would like to address minority and LGBTQ disparities on a large-scale level. I see myself getting my MPH and then PhD with the intent of going on to do policy work that ensures that historically underrepresented voices are heard and valued.



## SERGIO RIVERA RODRIGUEZ

**School:** University of Puerto Rico- Rio Piedras Campus

**About me:** I enjoy meeting new people and sharing ideas with them because it helps me expand my different points of view in controversial issues making me a more understanding person.

**Public Health Interests:** Epidemiology and healthcare administration; MPH and MD

**Career Goals:** I want to make investigations that give vulnerable people a voice in the medical community and also create community projects all around my island and the world.