Health Policy
NEWSLETTER

Vol. 25, No. 3 | **SUMMER 2012**

Getting to Know Tiffany "Tk" Rodgers, Recipient of Outstanding Student Award

Tiffany Rodgers, known as "Tk," is a student in the MPH program at JSPH and recently received the 2012 Outstanding Student Award. This is an award given by the College of Physicians, recognizing the contributions of Philadelphia area students, leaders, colleges, and institutions in public health. Tk was honored and thrilled to receive the award.

It is not easy to keep up with Tk. Her repertoire of community service activities keeps her going at an invigorating pace. From the moment you meet Tk, you feel her enthusiasm, passion, and dedication to the many health care issues that she has immersed herself in. Tiffany is currently a community organizer for Camden Churches Organized for People (CCOP), a coalition of congregations whose goal is to work together to address issues such as unemployment, crime, housing, and healthcare in Camden. Between her past experience as a community organizer, her ability to speak Spanish, and her expertise in graphic design, she is able to offer a complete skill set to the coalition…and she truly *loves* the work.

Tk recently completed the Albert Schweitzer Fellowship (ASF) Program, a service and leadership program dedicated to addressing health care needs of underserved populations. Her desire to become a Schweitzer Fellow began with her experience volunteering as a Spanish translator at Esperanza Health Center, a community-based health center in North Philadelphia. She became very concerned about the number of Hispanics who were suffering from type 2 diabetes. Through the ASF program she set out to develop the Community Health Promoter program. This program helps to identify and train peers/mentors in understanding and managing diabetes so they can disseminate information within their communities. Tk developed the *Diabetes Manual* in English and Spanish as a tool to train Health Promoters to teach others about diabetes. The Community Health Promoter Program has also been expanded to Abigail House, a skilled nursing and rehabilitation facility in Camden. When asked what the ASF program meant to her, Tk explained, "It's about the people I come across, the staff and clients, and the other fellows in my cohort."

Tk's diverse service background also includes her clerkship with the Kimmel Cancer Center in collaboration with MEE Productions Inc. MEE (Motivational Educational Entertainment) is a nationally recognized communications and research company that specializes in developing effective and culturally relevant messages for hard to reach populations. Tk examined culturally appropriate materials regarding the risk of cervical cancer among African-American women. Along with Dr. Amy Leader, Assistant Professor of Medical Oncology, Tk helped to develop, "Your Role, Your Part" Stylist Training Program, which utilizes stylists in hair salons to educate African-American female guardians about the HPV vaccine.

Tk Rodgers, MPH Student, JSPH

Tk is from California and attended William Jewell College in Missouri. She came to the East coast specifically for the Public Health program at Jefferson. She believes the Philadelphia area is a great place to gain experience in the field of public health. Tk wants to be able to "help in a balanced way" and enjoys matching services to needs. In public health, Tk explains, "you have the opportunity to a safe life and save many lives; it's the sum of all efforts." Tk's orientation towards serving others continues to blossom as she shares this final thought, "Know what your gifts and talents are and share it with the world." ■

REFERENCES

1. Common Program Requirements. ACGME Web site. http://www.acgme.org/acwebsite/home/common_program_requirements_07012011.pdf. Effective July 21, 2011. Accessed January 17, 2011.
2. Sexton JB, Helmreich RL, Neilands TB, et al. Safety Attitudes Questionnaire (Ambulatory Version). The University of Texas- Memorial Hermann Center for Healthcare Quality and Safety Web site. http://www.uth.tmc.edu/schools/med/imed/patient_safety/documents/Survey-SAQ-Ambulatory.pdf. 2003. Accessed January 17, 2011.
3. Facilitator's Manual: Practical Implementation of the Competencies. ACGME Web site. http://216.92.22.76/discus/messages/21/MODULE_2_Facilitator_Manual_module2-486.pdf April 2006. Accessed June 19, 2012.
4. Nasca TJ, Philibert I, Brigham T, Flynn T. The Next GME Accreditation System – Rationale and Benefits. *N Engl J Med*. 2012; 366(11):1051-1056.