

Jefferson Celebrates National Health Education Week

The JCPH MPH program celebrated National Health Education Week (NHEW) October 19-23, 2015 by honoring the work and dedication of local health education heroes in the Philadelphia region. JCPH solicited nominations through its extensive public health network, asking for a short description of the Hero's work and their dedication to the field of health education. A selection committee comprised of JCPH faculty selected 5 Health Education Heroes from diverse workplace settings including hospitals, community-based social service agencies, and private industry.

The 5 Health Education Heroes and their achievements were profiled on the JCPH website Jefferson.edu/university/population-health.html and in communications across the Thomas Jefferson University campus. The Health Education Heroes were also honored at a special luncheon that included JCPH faculty, staff, and MPH students. During the luncheon, our Heroes led a lively discussion about their job roles and responsibilities, their career paths in health education, and shared words of wisdom to the students. A standing-room-only crowd ended the hour truly inspired by the work that our Heroes do each day. JCPH's 2015 Health Education Heroes are:

Pamela Harrod Smith, MS is a health educator for Jefferson's Center for Urban Health. As part of the Million Hearts Campaign, Ms. Smith conducts blood pressure screenings at community sites across the Delaware Valley.



Health Education Heroes (left to right): Terri Clark, Amber Thompson, Pamela Harrod Smith, Sue Daugherty, and Alison Petok.

Terri Clark, MPH is the Prevention Coordinator for ActionAIDS, where she promotes LGBTQ health, facilitates access to health care services for those in need, and supports the aging population with HIV in Philadelphia.

Sue Daugherty, RN, LDN is the Chief Executive Officer for MANNA in Philadelphia. Over the past 15 years, she has counseled clients about the benefits of good nutrition, expanded nutrition services to clients with life-threatening illnesses, and fostered relationships in Africa that have launched nutrition programs abroad for orphans and vulnerable children.

Alison Petok, MSW, LSW, MPH is an oncology social worker at Jefferson's Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center (SKCC). Ms. Petok provides health education to patients across the life span, from young adults to seniors, works in the multidisciplinary palliative care clinic, and supports clinicians in the cancer center.

Amber Thompson, MS, MBA, CHE is the Vice President of Client Services and Solutions at Vree Health where she manages a team of allied health professionals who provide chronic disease care management to high risk patients.