

Jefferson Hosts American Public Health Association Student Assembly's Strategic Planning Meeting

June 15-16, 2013

Jefferson recently hosted the student board of the American Public Health Association (APHA) during their biannual strategic planning retreat. Over 30 students from across the country were in attendance, representing the 18 committees and sub-committees of the nation's largest student-run public health group. Students ranged from undergraduates to doctoral candidates in fields across a spectrum of healthcare disciplines. This year, APHA is revisiting their overall strategic plan, making the meeting at Jefferson an important time for the Student Assembly to ensure they remained aligned with the overall mission of APHA while continuing to be the premier organization for students interested in public health.

After some brief opening remarks, the meeting began with a presentation by Drew Harris, DPM, MPH, Program Director for JSPH's Masters of Health Policy program and a member of APHA's Executive Board. Dr. Harris' presentation gave attendees insight into how to craft a vision, mission statement, and objectives which would ensure that the organization is guided by relevant, measurable outcomes and a sound strategic

foundation. For the next day and a half, the board worked on Student Assembly's strategy, making sure that every facet was up to date and reflected the needs of the thousands of student members who will soon be entering the public health workforce.

Among the issues addressed were: the availability of leadership opportunities for students, student engagement in public health advocacy, and encouraging a diverse student body in public health. The student board also began preliminary planning for this year's APHA Annual Meeting in Boston, MA. The program, which will be held November 2-6, will feature the National Student Meeting, numerous student poster sessions, and many other student-centered programs.

Overall, the meeting was very successful, offering students a unique opportunity to shape their own national member group while learning how to create a comprehensive strategic plan. The ideas discussed at the meeting will guide the Student Assembly for the next two years, as it continues to offer leadership, educational, and career development opportunities for stu-



Left to Right: Alex Bryn, Chair Elect; Liesl Nydegger, Chair; and Brittany Marshall, Immediate Past Chair.

dents across the country who are interested in public health. ■

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