

# Donor highlights



## New DrPH scholarship in equity and anti-racism

*Named in memory of Andre' Gilmore Stanley, the first scholarship established for DrPH candidates will honor a student whose legacy was fighting for justice*

Stanley, center, with members of his 2016 cohort, including Thompson, second from left.

André Gilmore Stanley was a proud member of the 2016 cohort of the School of Public Health DrPH in Leadership Program. He passed away in 2017 before he could complete the program, but the mark he left on his classmates and teachers will never be forgotten. “André was an incredible person and, we felt it was important to honor him in an important way. We are happy to share that our fundraising efforts have allowed our program to establish the André Gilmore Stanley DrPH Scholarship,” said Christina Welter, Director of the DrPH Program and clinical associate professor of health policy and administration.

Stanley was a policy analyst for the US Food and Drug Administration’s Center for Tobacco Products in Silver Spring, Maryland. Prior to serving in the federal government, he worked in other various tobacco control capacities around the country. He was an adjunct professor of public health at the University of the District of Columbia and a member of the Executive Board of the American Public Health Association (APHA) where he was previously the chair of the Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs section of the association. In 2011, APHA awarded him a Fellowship in Government where he served on Capitol Hill as a legislative assistant in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Stanley joined the DrPH program as a well-seasoned public health professional who aspired to lead a state health department in the next stage of his long career. “He is described by his classmates as a very positive person, someone who was always willing to support his cohort-mates and share new ideas or approaches to community health,” Welter said.

Rebecca R. Thompson, CPA, CFRE, MPH, who was a member of Stanley’s 2016 cohort, helped initiate the idea to create a scholarship in his memory. “While André will not be present to carry out his desired leadership plans, the tenants of his desired research and experiences serve as a reminder that students in the DrPH program have an important role and responsibility - to be a voice for underserved populations and others who may not have the capacity to speak out and to lead change,” Thompson said. “DrPH students have a tremendous privilege and honor to lead and design new systems of health that are accessible and welcoming to all populations . We look forward to the many contributions that students in the DrPH program will add to public health practice through continued focus on health equity and racial justice.”

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## EPA grant funds new climate and health institute

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced a \$100,000 grant to the School of Public as part of the Environmental Education Grants Program. The funding will be used to support a new Climate and Health Institute in the division of environmental and occupational health sciences. Led by Elena Grossman, (MPH '11), research specialist, the Institute will prepare future leaders to address the public health impacts from climate change through a two-year training program.

“While we need to slow down climate change, we also need to mitigate what is already happening,” Grossman said. “We’re aiming to provide practical preparation for future public health professionals to step into any job, see how climate change is affecting public health and disproportionately impacting environmental justice communities, and incorporate climate change into their work.”

Though climate change is a huge global challenge, public health professionals often do not identify it as a priority nor perceive they have the knowledge or capacity to address it. In the first year of the training program, academics and

Stanley had a deep commitment to continuously learn, keeping his knowledge and skills relevant to today’s complex public health challenges. With his deep experience and strong interest in tobacco control, his research passion focused more on issues of equity and anti-racism, and the need to further explore and create solutions for police violence against the Black population. Ultimately, he desired to create healthy communities for all through a new culture of health.

With the help of numerous donors, including an anonymous donor who contributed \$50,000, this scholarship was fully endowed within a year. “This scholarship will support DrPH students in good academic standing who express a clear vision for action to address health equity, particularly racism, as a public health issue,” Welter said. The first scholarship will be awarded out in the 2023-2024 academic year to a student who is in the dissertation proposal stage of their DrPH program who has a research focus on equity and anti-racism. “André’s legacy will live on for years to come and we look forward to sharing the impact that this scholarship has on all the future students that will benefit from this scholarship,” Welter said. ●



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community partners from environmental justice communities will develop and deliver a curriculum of trainings to students and community members. The next year, students will work with one of the community partners and develop a project geared towards awareness in climate change, health, and equity and action by their civic leaders or community members.

“When we equip communities with the right tools to raise awareness and advance environmental education, it benefits everybody,” said EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan. “This funding will empower students and teachers in schools, and support community members in underserved and overburdened areas as we work together to tackle the climate crisis, advance environmental justice and deliver on our mission of protecting human health and the environment for all.”

Beyond public health readiness, these partnerships will increase knowledge and awareness among civic leaders and community members in environmental justice communities about climate change, public health impacts and strategies to address it. ●



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