

Sophia S. Leggett, MPH, PhD

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EDUCATION

- **Doctorate of Philosophy (Environmental Science)**, School of Science and Technology, Jackson State University, Jackson MS, 1998.
- **Master of Public Health (Health Care Organization and Policy)**, School of Public Health, University of Alabama, Birmingham, 1988; (CEPH accredited School of Public Health)
- **Bachelor of Science (Biology)**, School of Science and Technology, Jackson State University, Jackson MS, 1986.

LICENSURES AND CERTIFICATIONS

- OSHA Authorized General Industry Trainer, (2020-2024), (2016-2020), (2012-2016)
- Certified IRB Manager, (2013-Present)
- Certified Emergency Response Team FEMA, (2004-Present)
- EPA Trained Lead Inspector & Risk Assessor, (2004-Present)

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

- Faculty Senator of the Year, (2015-2016)
- Group External Funding Award, College of Public Service, School of Health Sciences, (2012-2013)
- W.E. B. DuBois Honor College Faculty, Jackson State University, 2014
- Inductee, Phi Kappa Phi, Honor Society, Jackson State University, 1998

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

April 2020-Present *Professor of Public Health*, Department of Behavioral & Environmental Health, School of Public Health, College of Health Sciences, Jackson State University, Jackson, MS (CEPH accredited MPH & DrPH programs)
Responsible for teaching graduate courses in both MPH and DrPH programs for Environmental and Occupational Health. Actively participate in university, professional and community service.

April 2020-Present *MPH Program Coordinator, Professor*, School of Public Health, College of Health Sciences, Jackson State University, Jackson, MS

Responsible for ensuring students' progress in their chosen concentrations. Assist in the planning, organizing and implementation of the MPH curriculum. Provide program support for students' matriculation in the School of Public Health. Evaluate existing curriculum, program requirements, assist in planning program orientation, and coordinate comprehensive examination to improve student outcomes. Monitor program success and recommend program changes to Dean,

Leadership team, and faculty as needed. Maintain strong working relationships with the University, School of Public Health program and staff, and build rapport with students to ensure program success.

February 2017-July2017

Acting Chair, Associate Professor of Public Health Department of Behavioral & Environmental Health, School of Public Health, Jackson State University, Jackson, Mississippi

Responsible for the daily operations of the Department of Behavioral and Environmental Health. The Chair has the authority and responsibility for the delivery of academic programs in accordance with departmental, college, school, and university strategic plans: hiring and evaluation of departmental personnel, to include faculty and staff; and budgeting and resource management. Coordinated departmental activity with the activities of other units in the College, School, and the University, in collaboration with other members of the administration, to assists in the development and implementation of College/School initiative

Significant Duties and Responsibilities

Department Leadership:

- Work with faculty, students, and staff to establish and maintain a long-term vision for the department that is consistent with the departmental, college, school, and university missions
- Assess department's progress in meeting department goals
- Make recommendations regarding departmental programs, policies, procedures, and practices
- Ensure departmental compliance with College, School, University, System and State rules and regulations

Department Curriculum:

- Coordinate the development of classes from conceptualization to approval by college, school, and university curriculum committees
- Complete scheduled comprehensive program reviews in accordance with Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) accreditation
- Complete Program Assessment of courses offered in the department
- Communicate and collaborate with program coordinators as appropriate
- Initiate new academic projects when appropriate

Department Operation:

- Manage daily operations of the department
- Develop and submit class schedules
- Review and revise the university catalog regarding matters related to departmental requirements and schedules
- Monitor course regulations and make appropriate adjustments in course schedules and instructor assignments in cooperation with the Dean
- Review and approve/deny grade changes requests
- Coordinate implementation of academic policies and regulations
- Communicate departmental activities and concerns to the Dean's Office
- Communicate university, college, school, activities and concerns to the departmental faculty

Budgeting:

- Manage resources for advancement of departmental and program vision and mission
- Develop and regularly monitor the budget for department
- Review and approve request for funding for departmental projects
- Review and approve departmental expenditures in compliance with college, university, and fiscal practices

Personnel:

- Administer the hiring and recruitment of full time faculty
- Evaluate full time faculty, to include conducting Annual Performance Reviews
- As part of Annual Review process, guide faculty in the construction of a professional development plan outlining goals in teaching, scholarship, and service
- Review and recommend, as appropriate, department and faculty development awards and grants to the Dean
- Recommend compensation increases, as appropriate, for department personnel based on evaluation and contribution to department, college, university, and community in areas of teaching, scholarship, and service
- Supervise student personnel
- Supervise and evaluate staff members
- Coordinate course load schedules to include flexible scheduling to meet the demands of the program while also facilitating faculty research and writing opportunities

Students:

- Coordinate recruiting of students in department programs
- Coordinate student advisement and review of degree progress documents
- Evaluate student transfer credit
- Meet with students, as appropriate, regarding concerns about classes, faculty, and policies
- Review and recommend requests and applications for student travel
- Coordinate departmental/program recruitment/retention activities with faculty and Admissions staff
- Coordinate departmental participation in orientation/registration of new students
- Review and approve/deny course override request
- Review and approve/deny request for transient credit

Meetings:

- Schedule and lead department meetings
- Participate in leadership meetings
- Serve on departmental, college, school, and university

August 2016-April 2020 *MPH Program Coordinator, Associate Professor, School of Public Health, Jackson State University, Jackson, MS*

All responsibilities are align with the aforementioned MPH program

Coordinator responsibilities.

December 2008-August 2009

Acting Chair, Associate Professor of Public Health Department of Behavioral & Environmental Health, School of Public Health, Jackson State University, Jackson, Mississippi

All responsibilities are align with the aforementioned acting chair responsibilities.

August 2006-April 2020 *Associate Professor of Public Health*, Department of Behavioral & Environmental Health, School of Public Health (formerly, School of Health Sciences), Jackson State University, Jackson, MS (CEPH accredited MPH & DrPH programs) Responsible for teaching graduate courses in both MPH and DrPH programs for Environmental and Occupational Health. Actively participate in university, professional and community service.

August 2000-2006 *Assistant Professor of Public Health*, Department of Behavioral & Environmental Health, School of Allied Health Science, Jackson State University, Jackson, MS
Responsible for teaching graduate courses in the MPH for Environmental and Occupational Health. Actively participate in university, professional, and community service.

August 1999-2000 *Visiting Assistant Professor of Public Health*, Department of Public Health School of Allied Health Sciences, Jackson State University, Jackson, MS
Responsible for teaching graduate courses in the MPH for Environmental and Occupational Health. Actively participate in university, professional, and community service.

August 1998-May 1999 *Visiting Assistant Professor of Health*, Department of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, School of Education, Jackson State University, Jackson, MS (NCATE accredited School)
Responsible for teaching undergraduate and graduate courses in the comprehensive health education curriculum. Actively participate in university, professional, and community service.

August 1989-September 1992

Adjunct (1997) *Instructor*, Department of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, School of Education, Jackson State University, Jackson, MS (NCATE accredited School)
Responsible for teaching undergraduate and graduate courses in the comprehensive health education curriculum. Actively participate in university, professional, and community service.

August 1988-May 1989 *Instructor*, Department of Biology, School of Science and Technology Jackson State University, Jackson, MS
Responsible for teaching and developing the general education undergraduate biological science lab curriculum for BIO 101- Biological Lab.

Non-Academic Support Experiences

February 1994-October 1997

Technical Assistant Trainer/Program Specialist, Interdisciplinary Alcohol/Drug Studies Center, School of Liberal Arts, Jackson State University, Jackson, MS

Responsible for providing technical assistants to community based organization in the areas of HIV/AIDS, evaluation, grant writing, program development, and needs assessments

April 1993-February 1994

Documenter/Evaluator, Department of Counseling and Human Resources Education, School of Education, Jackson State University, Jackson, MS

Responsible for documenting and evaluating programmatic activities; Coordination of workshop, seminars, meetings, and conferences with mental health agency for in-service teachers

PUBLICATIONS

Yalanda M. Barner, DrPH, Emeka Nwagwu, PhD, Azad Bhuiyan, PhD, **Sophia S. Leggett**, PhD, Douglas McWilliams, PhD et al. 2020. "Gender and Residence Differentials in the Association between Composite Physical Activity and Academic Success among College Students: Policy Implications", *International Journal of Current Research*, 12, (09), 14021-14026.

Sims, J. N., **Leggett, S. S.** and Myla, A. (2020). Industrial Emissions and Asthma Prevalence. *European Journal of Environment and Public Health*, 4(2), em0046. <https://doi.org/10.29333/ejeph/8288>

Brown, L., Manoj ,S., Leggett, S., Sung, JH., Bennett, RL., Azevedo, M. (2020). Efficacy testing of the SAVOR (Sisters Adding Fruits and Vegetables for Optimal Results) intervention among African American women: A randomized controlled trial. *Health Promotion Perspectives*, 10(3), 270-280
doi: 10.34172/hpp.2020.41

Williams, JL, Manoj, S., Mendy, VL, **Leggett, S.**, Luma, A., and Perkins, S. (2020). Using multi theory model (MTM) of health behavior change to explain intention for initiation and sustenance of the consumption of fruits and vegetables among African American men from barbershops in Mississippi. *Health Promotion Perspectives*, 10(3), doi: 10.34172/hpp.2020.33

Bhuiyan, A.R.; Cannon-Smith, G.A.; **Leggett, S.S.**; McCoy, P.D.; Barvié, M.; Jones, A.W. (2019) An Analysis of Acculturation Status and Healthcare Coverage for the Needs of Mental Health Service Utilization among Latinos in Mississippi, Louisiana, and Alabama. *Psych* 2019, 1(1), 460-468; <https://doi.org/10.3390/psych1010035>

Merem, E.C., Twumasi, Y., Wesley, J., Alsarari, M., Fagier, S., Crisler, M., Romorno, C., Olagbegi, D., Hines, A., Ochai, S., Nwagboso, E., **Leggett, S.**, Foster, D., Purry, V., Wasington, J. (2019). Assessing Issues in Wildland Habitat Management in the State of Mississippi. *Frontiers in Science*, 9(1):5-19. doi: 10.5923/j.fs.20190901.02

- Merem, E.C., Twumasi, Y., Wesley, J., Alsarari, M., Fagier, S., Crisler, M., Romorno, C., Olagbegi, D., Hines, A., Ochai, S., Nwagboso, E., **Leggett, S.**, Foster, D., Purry, V., Wasington, J. (2019). Assessing Water Resource Issues in the US Pacific North West Region. *International Journal of Mining Engineering and Mineral Processing*, 8(1): 1-19. doi: 10.5923/j.mining.20190801.01
- Sophia S. **Leggett**, Joan Wesley, Anitha Myla, Pamela McCoy, and Nicole Betson (2018). Availability and Quality of Physical Activity Resources (QPAR) in Neighborhood Parks for Pregnant Women and Women of Childbearing Age. *Preventive Chronic Disease* 2018; 15:170411 DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5888/pcd15.170411>.
- Merem, E.C., Twumasi Y., Wesley, J. , Isokpehi, M., Fageir, S., Crisler, M., Romorno, C., Hines, A., Hirse, G., Ochai, S., **Leggett, S.**, Nwagboso, E. (2018). Analyzing Changing Trends in Forest Land Areas of Mississippi. *International Journal of Agriculture and Forestry*, 8(1): 35-52. doi: 10.5923/j.ijaf.20180801.06.
- Bhuiyan, A.R, **Leggett, S.S.**, McCoy, P.,D., Cannon-Smith, G.R., Barvie, M. (2017). Predictors of Dental Care Service Utilization among Hispanics/Latinos in Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama. *Journal of Rural and Urban Research*, (7)1,29-37. ISSN:1934.6867 . <http://www.issn.org/>
- McCoy,P., **Leggett, S.**, Bhuiyan, A., Brown, D., Frye, P., and Williams, B. (2017). Text Messaging: An Intervention to Increase Physical Activity among African American Participants in a Faith-Based, Competitive Weight Loss Program. *International Journal Environment Research Public Health*, (14)326, 2-12. doi:10.3390/ijerph14040326
- Merem, E.C., Twumasi Y., Wesley, J. , Isokpehi, P., Shenge , M., Fageir, S., Crisler, M., Romorno, C., Hines, A., Hirse, G., Ochai, S., **Leggett, S.**, Nwagboso, E. (2017). Analyzing Water Management Issues Using GIS: The Case of Nigeria. *Geosciences*, 7(1): 20-46. doi: 10.5923/j.geo.20170701.03
- Merem, E.C., Twumasi Y., Wesley, J. , Isokpehi, P., Shenge , M., Fageir, S., Crisler , M., Romorno, C., Hines, A., Hirse, G., Ochai, S., **Leggett, S.**, Nwagboso, E. (2017). Regional Assessment of Energy Trends in West Africa Using GIS. *International Journal of Energy Engineering*, 7(1):1-27 DOI:10.5923/j.ijee.20170701.01
- Avery, N.W., **Leggett, S.S.**, Juncos, L.A. (2016). Strengthening Chronic Kidney Disease Knowledge Among Students Attending a Historically Black University. *The Journal of Nephrology Social Work* 40(2) 38-43.
- Leggett, S.S.**, Wesley, J.M., Betson, N., and Gilbert-Manogin, M.E. (2015). Assessing the Nutrition Environments in the Southern Quadrant Area in Jackson, Mississippi. *Journal of Rural and Urban Research*, (5)1. ISSN: 1934-6867. <http://www.issn.org/>
- Davis, M., McCoy,P., Payton, M., Brown, D., Brown, R., **Leggett, S.** (2015) Family Affluence Scale Revisited: Accumulation of Material Possessions Versus Children's Perception of Their Family Being Well-off. *Journal of Rural and Urban Research*, (5)1. ISSN: 1934-6867. <http://www.issn.org/>
- Graham,B., Stevens, J., Wells, P., Sims, J., Rogers, C., **Leggett, S.S.**, Ekunwe, S., and Ndebele,K. (2014). Enhancement of Arsenic Trioxide-Mediated Changes in Human Induced Pluripotent

Stems Cells (IPS). *International Journal Environmental Research and Public Health*, 11: 7524-7536. doi10.3390/ijerph110707524

Sims, J.N., Graham, B., Pacurari, M., **Leggett, S.**, Tchounwou, P., and Ndebele, K. (2014). Di-Ethylehexylphthalate (DEHP) Modulates Cell Invasion, Migration and Achorage Independent Growth through Targeting S100P in LN-229 Glioblastoma Cells. *International Journal Environmental Research and Public Health*, 11:5006-5019. doi10.3390/ijerph110505006

Leggett, S. et al. (2003). Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS): A Major Issue for Children. Jackson State University, *The Researcher (A Special Edition by the Institute of Epidemiology and Health Services Research)*. Fall, XIX, (1): 97-105.

Hardy, M.G., **Leggett, S.S.**, Begonia, G. B. (2000). Physiological Effects of NaCl and MgCl₂ on Organic Solute Production in *Chlorococcum hypnosporum* L. *Journal of Mississippi Alliance of Science*. (45)2: 124-129.

Hardy, M.G., **Leggett, S.S.**, Begonia, G. B. (1999). The effects of NaCl and MgCl₂ on Algal Physiology and Accumulation of Organic Solutes in *Chlorella pyrenoidosa*. *Journal of Mississippi Alliance of Science*. (44) 3: 167-172.

Submitted:

Baskin, ML, Biggio, JR, Chandler-Laney, P, Owens, MY, Leggett, SS. (2019). Rationale and Design of the Pregnancy and Early Life in the South (PEARLS) Study. *Maternal and Child Health Journal*. (Submitted).

Intellectual Contributions

Book Chapters

Ayensu, W. K., Keku, E. O., Isokpehi, R. D., Farah, I.O., Arthur, C.A., and **Leggett, S.S.** (2011). Autoimmune Disorders - Pathogenetic Aspects *Autoimmune Diseases: The Role of Environment and Gene Interactions*. InTech. doi.10.5772/802

Papers and Presentations

Darian Holt, Jennifer Sims, **Sophia Leggett** and Vincent Mendy (2021) *Association between Asthma Prevalence and Sociodemographic Characteristics among Mississippi Adults*. 14th Health Disparities Conference at Xavier University of Louisiana to convene virtually April 7–8, 2021. Virtual Poster Session

Sophia S Leggett (February, 2019). *Availability and Quality of Physical Activity Resources in Neighborhood Parks for Pregnant Women and Women of Childbearing Age*. Poster Presentation. 15th International Symposium on Recent Advances in Environmental Health Research. Jackson, MS.

Jennifer N. Sims, Joni K. Roberts, **Sophia S. Leggett**, Oluwabunmi V. Ogugbne, and Aerial D. Watts. (February, 2019). *Implicit Bias in Health Pre-Professionals*. Poster Presentation. 15th International Symposium on Recent Advances in Environmental Health Research. Jackson, MS.

Elizabeth Jones, Briana McField, Lakeria Simpson, Oberia Williams, Jennifer N. Sims, **Sophia**

- S. Leggett**, Corey Proctor. (February, 2019). *Breaking Barriers: A Food Assessment for Food Justice in West Jackson, MS*. Poster Presentation. 15th International Symposium on Recent Advances in Environmental Health Research, Jackson, MS.
- Sophia S. Leggett** and Jennifer Sims (September, 2017) *Climate Change threatens Our Health: Student Physicians for Social Responsibility (sPSR) chapter at the University of Mississippi Center, Jackson, MS.*
- Jennifer Sims, and **Sophia S. Leggett** (October, 2017) *Climate Change Threatens Our Health: 2017 Annual Conference Mississippi Public Health Association, Jackson, MS.*
- Sophia Leggett**, and Jennifer Sims, (November, 2017) *Industrial Emissions of SO₂, NO_x, CO₂ and Asthma Prevalence in the United States: 2017 Annual American Public Health Association, Atlanta, GA*
- Sophia S. Leggett**, Chris Lane, Ora Rawls, Fred White (September, 2016) *Navigating the IRB Application Process and Review: University of Scholars, Jackson State University, Jackson, MS*
- ConSandra McNeil, LaVerne Gentry, Jean-Claude Assad, Okechukwu Anyamele, **Sophia S. Leggett** (March, 2016) *Shared Governance Practice at Selected HBCLT for Faculty Productivity: 81st Annual Conference of the Association of Social and Behavioral Scientist, Inc., Jackson, MS*
- Joan M. Wesley, **Sophia S. Leggett**, and Edmund Merem (February, 2016) *Black Home Ownership and Housing More Than an Aspiration: NAAAS & Affiliates 24th National Conference Baton Rouge, LA*
- Sophia S. Leggett**, Chris Lane, Ora Rawls, Fred White (January, 2016) *Completing the IRB Protocol Application: University of Scholars, Jackson State University, Jackson, MS*
- Joan M. Wesley, **Sophia S. Leggett**, and Mary E. Mangoin (April, 2015) *Assessing the Nutritional Environment of Cities in the Jackson, MS Metropolitan Statistical Area. 45th Annual Meeting: Urban Affairs Association Conference, Miami, FL.*
- Joan M. Wesley and **Sophia S. Leggett** (February, 2015) “Photovoice: *Implications for Participatory Action research and Community Expressions*. National Association for African American Studies (NAAAS) & Affiliates 23rd National Conference. Baton Rouge, LA.
- Sophia S. Leggett** and Joan M. Wesley (February, 2015) *Assessing the Environmental Risk Factors of a Community: Windshield and Walking Survey* National Association for African American Studies (NAAAS) & Affiliates 23rd National Conference. Baton Rouge, LA.
- Azad Bhuiyan, **Sophia Leggett**, Gerri Cannon-Smith, Pamela McCoy, Swati Prodduturu Nicole Betson (February, 2015) *Predictors of Dental Care Service Utilization among Latinos in Mississippi, Louisiana, and Alabama*. Mississippi Academy of Sciences Seventy-Ninth Annual Meeting University of Southern MS Thad Cochran Convention Center, Hattiesburg, MS.

Azad Bhuiyan, **Sophia Leggett**, Gerri Cannon-Smith, Pamela McCoy, Swati Prodduturu Nicole Betson (October, 2014) *Acculturation is an Independent Predictor of Health Insurance Coverage Among Hispanic/Latinos in Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama*. 14th Annual Conference on Eliminating Health Disparities, “Obesogenics Jackson Convention Complex, Jackson, MS.

Azad Bhuiyan, and **Sophia Leggett** (April, 2014) Predictors of Dental Care Service Utilization among Latinos in Mississippi, Louisiana, and Alabama International Research Forum, NAAAS & Affiliates Clinton, Mississippi

Azad Bhuiyan, **Sophia Leggett**, Gerri Cannon-Smith, Pamela McCoy (March, 2013). *Behavioral and Environmental Health Equity Project Tri-State Latino/Hispanic Community Health Needs Assessment*. Xavier University of Louisiana College of Pharmacy’s Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities Research and Education (CMHDRE) Sixth Health Disparities Conference Xavier University of Louisiana New Orleans, LA

Sophia Leggett and Azad Bhuiyan (April 2012). *Behavioral and Environmental Health Equity Project Tri-State Latino/Hispanic Community Health Needs Assessment (Preliminary Data)*. Gwendolyn S. Prater Research Forum, Jackson State University, College of Public Service Research Forum Series Jackson Medical Mall, Jackson, MS

Cannon-Smith, G. A., Bhuiyan, A., **Leggett, S. S.** (October, 2011) Xavier University Health Disparities Conference, "*Behavioral and Environmental Health Equity Latino/Hispanic Community Health Needs Assessment: A Pilot Study*," Xavier University School of Pharmacy, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Leggett, S. S., (October, 2009). Community of Scholars Research Lecture Series, "*Securing Institutional Review Board Approval*," JSU: Division of Graduate Studies, JMM 148.

Arthur, C. A., **Leggett, S. S.**, Cannon-Smith, G. A., Brown, D. and Shahbazi, M. (May, 2009). Mid-Year SOPHE Conference, "Making the Connection: Preparing a Diverse Environmental Health Promotion Workforce," Society for Public Health Education, New Orleans, Louisiana.

GRANTS AND SPONSORED RESEARCH

Research Support

Currently Funded Grant

Institutional Funding/Support: Title III Programs - Historically Black Graduate Institutions

Principal Investigator: University President

Funding Agency: US Department of Education Office of Postsecondary Education

Amount: \$228K (10/2019-9/2024)

Project Title: “Establishing a Center for Public Health Research, Training, and Practice”

Role: Activity Director/Coordinator

Goal: To strengthen the public health workforce by educating students on research techniques through didactic practice. The Center will focus on identifying areas of need where students require additional training, and provide opportunities for enhanced and rigorous research, training and practice.

Completed Funded Research

INUEZEH001396-01-00

Role : Principal Investigator

Funding Agency: Mississippi State Department of Health, Lead Poisoning Prevention and Healthy Homes Program

Amount : \$33K (10/01/2018-06/30/2019)

Project Title : “Healthcare Provider’s Tool ”

Goal : To develop a survey to assess healthcare providers knowledge about childhood lead poisoning.

INUEZEH001396-01-00

Principal Investigator : Dr. Jennifer N. Sims

Funding Agency : Mississippi State Department of Health, Lead Poisoning Prevention and Healthy Homes Program

Amount : \$25K (10/01/2018-06/30/2019)

Project Title: “ Head Start and Child Care Facility Lead Poisoning and Healthy Homes Training Curriculum. ”

Role: Co-Principal Investigator

Goal : To develop a curriculum for head start and child care facility in Jackson, MS

1 U54 MD008176-01 Principal Investigator: Dr. Fouad, Mona N

Funding Agency: National Institute of Health (National Institute of Minority Health Disparities)

Institution: University Of Alabama at Birmingham

Amount: \$100K per year 09/26/2012 – 07/31/2017 (Continuation/2018)

Project Title: “Mid-South Transdisciplinary Collaborative Center for Health Disparities Research”

Role: Co-Principal Investigator Jackson State Research Project 1, Sophia S. Leggett

Goal: To examine the influence of social determinants of health on gestational weight gain and maternal and child outcomes among black and white women in the Deep South. JSU project focused on the nutritional environments in the tri county area.

Funding Agency: Women’s Foundation of Mississippi

Principal Investigator: Dr. Joni K. Roberts

Amount: \$50K (06/2017-05/2018)

Project Title: “Determinants of Pregnancy Prevention among Older African American Teen”

Role: Co-Principal Investigator

Goal: The project is mixed method study aimed at investigating how social determinants of health play an important role in pregnancy prevention among this vulnerable population.

Funding Agency: GET- FRUVED Project: USDA

Role: Principal Investigator

Amount: \$3K (08/2017-7/2019)

Project Title: “FRUVED Mini Grant Intervention”

Goal: The project is an intervention study site to help students manage their weight and live healthier.

Submitted Research Support

Funding Agency: Mississippi Department of Health, Office of Tobacco Control

Not Funded 03/2019

Amount: (\$449,310.73)

Project Title: “Youth Tobacco Education and Prevention Program (YTEPP) ”

Goal: To develop and implement a prevention program on tobacco for high school students.

CDC-RFA-TS15-1602 Principal Investigator: **Sophia S. Leggett**

Funding Agency: Centers for Disease Control

Awarded Amount: \$149K

**Funds Unavailable (07/2016)*

Project Title: “Community Health Projects Related to Contamination at Brownfield/Land Reuse Sites”

Goal: The proposed project, Advancing Community Health: The Intersection of Land Reuse and Health will focus on improving health for the community surrounding a land reuse/redevelopment site that was formerly a warehouse for Mississippi Valley Gas Company.

CPIMP091054-01-00 Principal Investigator: Cannon-Smith

Funding Agency: US Department of Health and Human Services (*Office of Minority Health*)

Institution: University of Mississippi Medical Center's Institute for Improvement of Minority Health and Health Disparities in the Delta Region (DRI).

Amount Awarded: \$350K per year (09/2009-07/2013)

Project Title: “Behavioral and Environmental Health Equity Project”

Role: Co-Principal Investigator, **Sophia S. Leggett**

Goal: To address how to increase the availability of public health information, capacity building and workforce development. The project focused on facilitating and addressing the needs of the Hispanic community in the three Delta Black Belt states.

Funding Agency: *Partnership for a Healthy Mississippi* Principal Investigator **Sophia S. Leggett**

Amount Awarded: \$95K (summer projects only 2003-2006)

Project Title: “Anti-Tobacco Education Program: A Partnership with the National Youth Sports Program”

Goal: To educate youth about the dangers of tobacco use and second-hand smoke.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

- “Code of Ethics and Conduct Training”, Jackson State University, February, 2021
- “New Realities in Times of COVID-19: A Humanistic Response, Virtual Symposium, November, 2020
- “COVID-19 Contact Tracing”, Johns Hopkins University, July, 2020
- “Managing Bias Training”, Jackson State University, March 2021, January, 2020
- “Harassment and Discrimination Prevention Training”, Jackson State University, March 2021, January, 2020
- “PRIM & R’s 2019 Advancing Ethical Research Conference (AER19)”, November 17-20, 2019, Boston, MA
- “Culturally Responsive Care in Health Care Setting course”, Mississippi Department of Health, Office of Oral Health, September 2019, February 2020
- “PRIM&R’s, 2018 Advancing Ethical Research Conference”, San Diego, CA (November 2018)
- “Big IDEAs for Improving the Lives of Mississippians 2018 Mississippi IDEa Conference”, (July 2018).
- “Teambuilding” Jackson State University”, (September, 2017)
- “SAS Procedures and Data Analysis Workshop”, (June, 2016)
- “Uniform Administrative Requirements for Federal Grants: 2 CFR 200 (Subparts A-D)” CEU 1.3, (May 2015)
- “Career Planning for Summer and Beyond Workshop”, (April, 2015)
- Nutrition Environment Measure Survey, Certified NEMS Rater, The University of Pennsylvania School of Public Health, (October, 2014)

- “Instructional Technology Training-IPAD 101”, (February, 2013)
- “Reducing the Risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome in Mississippi”, National Institute of Child Health & Human Development. (November 2010).
- Workshop, "No Comprende? How to find and Use Health-related Resources for Spanish-speaking Communities", The Institute for Improvement of Minority Health and Health Disparities in the Delta Region (Delta Regional Institute [DRI]) and the Rowland Medical Library. (October 27, 2010 - October 28, 2010).
- Seminar, "National Biodefense Analysis and Countermeasures Center", JSU/Center for Bioinformatics & Computational Biology. (September 30, 2009 - October 1, 2010).
- Conference Attendance, 11th Annual HBCU and Hispanic Health Services Research Conference: “Health Equity and Ethics: Minority Researchers Leading the Quest for Improved Health Outcomes”, Research in Minority Institutions Project; Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services; Tuskegee University National Center for Bioethics in Research and Healthcare, Tuskegee, AL; National HBCU Research Network for Health Services & Health Disparities. (September 9, 2010).
- Workshop, "Bioinformatics", Pittsburgh Supercomputing Center & Carnegie Mellon University. (June 14, 2010 - June 25, 2010).
- Conference Attendance, "Mississippi EPSCOR Annual Meeting", National Science Foundation: JSU/MSU/UM/USM. (April 15, 2010).
- Seminar, "Symposium for Junior Investigators on Psychosocial and Neighborhood Predictors of Cardiovascular Risk in African Americans", University of Michigan and Jackson Heart Study. (October 15, 2009 - October 16, 2009).

COURSES TAUGHT

MPH Public Health Program (April 2020-Present)

Graduate Courses

PHS 543 Occupational Health & Safety Management

PHS 545 Environmental Policy and Occupational Health Regulations

PHS 508 Public Health Internship

Undergraduate Course

HCA 310- Health Economics & Payers System

Public Health Programs (August 1999-April 2020)

MPH Graduate Courses

PHS 504 Environmental and Occupational Health

PHS 541 Environmental Management and Industrial Hygiene

PHS 542 Environmental and Occupational Health Risk Assessment

PHS 543 Occupational Health & Safety Management

PHS 544 Environmental and Occupational Toxicology

PHS 545 Environmental Policy and Occupational Health Regulations

PHS 587 Special Topics in Public Health

PHS 519 Health Program and Evaluation

PHS 508 Public Health Internship

PHS 507 Applied Master’s Project

DrPH Graduate Courses

PHS 706 Principles of Environmental and Occupational Health

PHS 798 Dissertation

Department of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation (1997-1999) (1989-92)

Health Education Graduate Courses

HE 501 Foundations of Health

HE 502 Methods and Materials in Teaching Education

HE 503 Organization and Administration of School and Community Health

HE 600 Public and Community Health

Undergraduate Course

HE 101 Concepts of Health

ACADEMIC ADVISEMENT AND MENTORING

Doctoral dissertation supervised (DrPH, Behavioral Health Promotion and Education)

- Jason R. Brown (2020). *The Association Between Social Determinants Of Health And Adverse Pregnancy Outcomes: Findings From The 2009-2011 Mississippi PRAMS*
- Dora Adriana Moreno Avila (2019). *Cultural And Linguistic Assessment In The Mississippi State Department of Health*
- Chigozie Udemgba (2019). *Assessing Clinical Outcomes among Adults: The Mississippi Quality Improvement Initiative II.*
- Roshunda N. Lipsey (2016). *Exposure to Violence: A Pilot Study Assessing the Effects of Student Behaviors and Academic Outcomes*
- Kenyatta Sherrell Parker (2016). *Examining the Impact of Sexuality Education on the Sexual Health Knowledge, Attitudes, and Sexual Behaviors of College Students at Historically Black College and University in Mississippi*
- NaTasha W. Avery (2015). *Knowledge, Attitudes, and Beliefs about Chronic Kidney Disease Among Students Attending a Historically Black University: A Pilot Study* [Published in *Journal of Nephrology Social Work*, 2016]
- Nikki G. Johnson (2015). *Evaluating Employee Participation in a Workplace Healthy Snack Program at a Mississippi State Agency*
- Nakietra L. Burse (2015). *Knowledge, Attitudes, and Beliefs of African-American Parents/Caregivers Regarding Childhood Obesity* [Published in *The Journal of Nephrology Social Work*, 2016]
- Pamela A. McCoy. (2014). *A Pilot Study of Text Messaging to Promote Healthy Eating and Physical Activity in a Faith Community Weight Loss Program* [Published in *International Journal Environment Research Public Health*, 2017]

Doctoral (Ph.D and DrPH) dissertation committee member

- Danielle R. Bogan (2021). *The Association Between Socioeconomic Status and Life's Simple 7 among African Americans: Jackson Heart Study* [DrPH, Public Health, Epidemiology]
- Anitha Myla (2021). *Evaluation Of Graphene Oxide As A Potential Endocrine Disrupting Chemical In Japanese Medaka Larvae* [PhD, Environmental Sciences]
- LaTonya Artice Lott (2021). *The Relationship between Obesity, Sexual Risk-Taking Behaviors, and Psychosocial Dysfunction among High School Students: Findings from the 2013 and 2015 Mississippi use Risk Behavior Surveillance System.* [DrPH, Public Health, Epidemiology]
- Fatoumatta Sisay. (2020). *A Multi-Level Analysis of Neighborhood SES, Stress, and Coronary Heart Disease among African Americans: Jackson Heart Study* [DrPH Public Health]
- Sean S. Lenard. (2020). *Factors Influencing Opioid Use and Misuse Among College Students In Mississippi: Strategies For Informing Public Health Policy* [DrPH Public Health]

- LaVonne D. Brown. (2020). *Testing the Efficacy of an Intervention Based on the Multi-Theory Model of Health Behavior Change to Increase Fruit and Vegetable Consumption among a Sample of African American Women*. [DrPH Public Health]
- Jaelrbreiret L. Williams. (2020) *Using Multi Theory Model (MTM) Of Health Behavior Change To Explain Fruits And Vegetables Consumption Among African American Men In Barbershops In Mississippi* [DrPH Public Health]
- Ahfiya Howard (2020). *Compassion fatigue and compassion satisfaction among Mental Health Professionals in Central Mississippi* [DrPH Public Health]
- Nicole Betson (2019). *Inhibiting of CRD_BP Potentiates Anti-Growth of Drug Effects on Colorectal Cancer Cells*. [PhD, Environmental Sciences]
- Megan D. Robinson. (2018). *Examining Disparities In Low Birthweight And Preterm Birth By Maternal Neighborhood Factors: An Analysis Of Mississippi Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (Prams), 2009-2011* [DrPH Public Health]
- Tashinika McGee (2020). *A qualitative study exploring childhood obesity: Maternal influence and intervention*. [PhD, Social Work]
- Sudharshanam Karakala. (In-progress). *Association between acculturation and health outcomes among Hispanic communities in the Deep South* [DrPH Public Health]
- Yalanda M. Barner (2018). *Association of Diet, Physical Activities and Academic Success at Historically Black Colleges and Universities: Policy Implications Physical Activity* [DrPH, Health Policy Management]
- Turquoise C. Alexander-Perlote (2018). *Bioaccumulation of Heavy Metal and Metalloid In Crassostrea Virginica at The Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve*. [PhD, Environmental Science]
- Evangeline M. Deer (2018). *Va Extracts Inhibit Leptin Expression And Modulate Specific Transcription Factors In Adipocytes: Evidence For Va Extracts As A Therapeutic Agent For The Treatment Of Obesity*. [PhD, Environmental Science]
- Ashley King-Profit (2017). *Psychological Distress and Its Relationship to Attitudes Toward Seeking Professional Mental Help Among Minority College Students* [PhD, Clinical Psychology]
- Zeldra Z. Vawters (2016). *A Quantitative Examination of the Relationship between Religious Coping and Overall General Health in Alzheimer's disease Caregivers*. [DrPH, Public Health, Behavioral Health Promotion and Education]
- Desmond Griffith (2015). *An Examination on the Quality of Life of African-American Adults Living with Sickle Cell Disease (A Qualitative Approach)* [PhD, Social Work]
- Melinda Todd (2015). *Support Groups of Populations of Children with Autism: The Roles of Ethnic Minority Parents*. [DrPH, Public Health, Behavioral Health Promotion and Education]
- Mujuni T. Maliyamkono (2015). *Examining the Side Effects of Anti-Hypertensive Therapy on Lunge Function and Other Respiratory Symptoms: Finding From the Jackson Heart Study*. [DrPH, Public Health, Epidemiology]
- Isley Carter (2015). *Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Mississippi Youth Build Program for Improving Educational Attainment, Employability, and Leadership Development Skills: Implications for Public Health*. [DrPH, Public Health, Health Policy Management]
- Amanda Brown (2015). *A Qualitative Pilot Study of African-American Older Adults' Underutilization of Influenza Vaccination*. [DrPH, Public Health, Behavioral Health Promotion and Education]
- Jennifer Sims (2014). *Di-Ethyl-Hexyl-Phthalate (Dehp) Modulates Cell Invasion, Migration, And Anchorage Independent Growth Through Targeting S100p In Glioblastoma*. [PhD, Environmental Science]
- Spencer L. Willis, Jr. (2014). *The Influence of Outcome Expectations, Support for Beverage*

Taxes, and the Nutrition Environment on Beverage Intake among African American Adults- A Pilot Study [DrPH, Public Health, Behavioral Health Promotion and Education]

- Marilyn M. Watkins (2012). *An Assessment of Parents' Perceptions of School-Based Sexuality Education* [DrPH, Public Health, Behavioral Health Promotion and Education]
- Alice Marie Walker (2011). *Cellular and Molecular Mechanisms of Arsenic Trioxide Toxicity in Lung Carcinoma (A549) Cells*. [PhD, Environmental Science]
- Pamela Moore (2009). *The Cellular and Molecular Mechanism of Malathion Induced Toxicity in HepG2 Cells and Sprague Dawle* [PhD, Environmental Science]
- Patricia Fryer (2008). *A Qualitative Study of HIV Risk-Taking Behaviors at a Historically Black University* [DrPH, Public Health, Behavioral Health Promotion and Education]

SERVICE

University Service at Jackson State University

Chair, Institutional Review Board (IRB)

Member, COVID-19 University Task Force Committee

Member, University, College of Health Science Naming Committee

Member, JSU Honorary Degree Recommendation Committee

Member, University Promotion and Tenure Policy Committee

Member, Academic Dishonesty Review Panel

Member, Research Integrity & Scholarly Engagement Committee

Member, SACSCOC: Educational Programs Structure & Content Committee

Co-Chair, School of Public Health Dean Search Committee

Faculty Senator at-Large

Faculty Senate, Vice President

Member, One JSU Excellence Awards Program Committee and Review Panel

Member, University Faculty Handbook Committee

Member, University Division of Graduate School, Graduate Curriculum Committee

Member, Internal Advisory Committee for the National Science Foundation (NSF)/JSU Advance project

Member, W.E.B. Du Bois Honors College, Academic Council

Member, Promotion & Tenure Committee, College of Education

Member, Promotion & Tenure Committee, College of Science, Engineering & Technology

Member, Promotion & Tenure Committee, College of Public Service

Member, Department of Behavioral & Environmental, Third Year Review Promotion & Tenure Committee

Chair, Faculty Search Committee, School of Health Science

Chair, Workforce Development Task Force Committee, Public Health Program

Member, Public Health School Task Force Committee, College of Public Service

Member, College of Health Science, Leadership Committee

Member, School of Public Health (MPH & DrPH) Admission Committee

Member, Curriculum Committee, Public Health Program, School of Health Science

Member, School of Health Science Associate Dean Search Committee

Member, Admission Committee, Doctorate of Public Health, School of Health Science

Member, Accreditation Committee, Public Health Program, School of Health Science

Chair, Department of Behavioral and Environmental Health Chair Search Committee

Faculty Senator, Department of Behavioral and Environmental Health

Member, Epidemiology & Biostatistics Faculty Search Committee

Member, Urban Regional & Planning Chair Search Committee

Member, Chair Search Committee, Department of Psychology

Member, Promotion & Tenure Committee, Department of Psychology
Member, Promotion & Tenure Committee, Department of Social Work

Professional Service

Reviewer for SOPHE and APHA
Reviewer for Reviews on Environmental Health Journal
Member, Deep South Center for Occupational Health & Safety Advisory Board, Birmingham, AL
Member, Mississippi State Department of Health Occupational Safety Advisory Committee, Jackson, MS
Member, University of Mississippi. Batson Child Safety and Community Outreach Advisory Board,
Jackson, MS
Member, Central Mississippi Asthma Coalition, Jackson, MS
Member, Mississippi Department of Health Childhood Lead Advisory Board, Jackson, MS
Judge, Mississippi Regional II Science Fair

Professional Organizations

American Public Health Association (APHA),
Mississippi Public Health Association (MPHA)
Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)
Delta Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE)
Multi-Cultural Organization (NAAAS/NAHLS/IAAS/NAIS)

Consultancies

Innovative Behavioral Services, Inc.
Hinds County Human Resource Agency: Head Start, Jackson, MS