



Jen Farnsworth (she/her)

Jen is a second-year Master of Public Health student concentrating in Maternal and Child Health.

I would love to go into evaluating maternal and child health programs. There's already so much being done, but I want to help evaluate and eventually implement programs that will have the most meaningful impact in a variety of settings and for populations that have been historically marginalized.

I think it's a critical time to reevaluate what leadership means in public health. I wanted to be part of a cohort that had similar interests in creating change and being in a safe space to discuss and come up with tangible ways I could improve.



Carolyn Brown-Kaiser (she/her)

Carolyn is a second-year Master of Public Health student concentrating in Maternal and Child Health.

I am interested in evaluating Maternal and Child Health programs administered by, or related to, local, city, and state health departments. I hope to conduct rigorous evaluations and studies to advance the well-being of women, children, and families, with the overarching guidance of the reproductive justice framework informing my work.

As I contemplated my transition from academia to the workforce, I was drawn to the Leadership Training Program because it provides the opportunity to acquire knowledge and hone competencies essential for making a substantive impact and championing health equity within a leadership role in the Maternal and Child Health field. I look forward to learning from the Maternal and Child Health faculty facilitating our workshops and my fellow Leadership Training Program cohort members.



Catalina Desouza (she/her)

Catalina is a second-year Master of Public Health student concentrating in Maternal and Child Health.

I am passionate about advocating to improve the health of all women, children, youth, families, and communities. I am particularly interested in pursuing research surrounding Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), vaccine hesitancy, and postpartum depression.

I decided to join the program to learn more about the many ways I could make a difference in the public health field regarding health equity.



Larkin O'Gorman (she/her)

Larkin is a second-year Master of Public Health student concentrating in Maternal and Child Health.

My primary career interest is centered around working in the field of sexual and reproductive health. I also have a growing passion for environmental work and justice. In the future, I would love to work within the intersection of both SRH and environmental work, such as providing SRH support in post-environmental disaster scenarios.

I joined the LTP to gain more exposure to the MCH world beyond GW and develop more confidence in myself and my abilities to make a difference in the post-grad world.



Rachael Bailey (she/her)

Rachael is a second-year Master of Public Health student concentrating in Maternal and Child Health.

After completing my MPH, I hope to work in the global health setting, evaluating gender-based violence programs targeting displaced women and girls. I hope to look at the effectiveness and impact of these programs both in the nonprofit sector and further at the systems level with organizations like UNICEF and UNHCR.

I chose to join the LTP with the hopes of fostering leadership skills that can be utilized to create and implement more equitable public health policies and interventions.



Sydney Durrah (she/her)

Sydney is a second-year Master of Public Health student concentrating in Maternal and Child Health.

I'm eager to pursue a career in Health Equity Research and Consulting because it resonates with my dedication to tackling healthcare disparities. With a strong grasp of social determinants of health, I aim to contribute to the creation of fair healthcare policies. My passions lie in using research to guide strategic consulting and promoting inclusive healthcare practices for the betterment of diverse communities.

This program offers a structured and immersive environment where I can develop a deeper understanding of effective leadership strategies, communication, and decision-making.



Cate Pribyl (she/her)

Cate is a second-year Master of Public Health student concentrating in Maternal and Child Health.

I hope to continue working in the non-profit sector and directly with underserved populations. I am interested in designing and implementing programs that support holistic public health goals for women, children, and families. I aim to be involved in projects surrounding topics such as pediatric HIV/AIDS, social justice and public health, sexual/reproductive health, neonatal health, and maternal mental health.

My priority professionally is to make a compelling impact in the real lives of women, children, and families globally. I feel like the MCH LTP offers the perfect hands-on approach to collaboration and provides the opportunity to strengthen my communication, teamwork, and analytical skills with not only esteemed faculty, but also my fellow students.



Rylea Luckfield (she/they)

Rylea is a second-year Master of Public Health student concentrating in Health Policy.

I currently work as a Senior Policy Analyst for The Council of State Governments. I eventually want to return to Missouri (my home state) to promote maternal and reproductive policy change at the state level.

I chose to join the Leadership Training Program because I wanted to become more confident in public speaking/verbal communication and management/leadership. I also thought the program would give me a deeper understanding of maternal and child health policy issues.



Clare Beymer(she/her)

Clare is a Master of Public Health and Physician Assistant student concentrating in Maternal and Child Health.

As a PA/MPH student in MCH, I am working toward a career where I can cohesively integrate my public health knowledge into clinical practice as a physician assistant. In the long term, my career aspiration is to combine healthcare and public health in a community-based program that promotes health literacy and provides healthcare services to women and children.

I joined the LTP because I believe that leadership is a fundamental skill for practitioners of public health and healthcare alike because it equips the individual with the tools to unite and guide people. The MCH LTP provides the setting and skill-building opportunities that will allow me to maximize my leadership potential.



Alanna McGill (she/her)

Alanna is a Master of Public Health and Physician Assistant student concentrating in Maternal and Child Health.

As a PA/MPH student, I hope to one day work at a women's health clinic as a physician assistant and provide medical services and preventative care to people. I would also like to be able to work with community-based organizations to help women in underserved areas gain better access to healthcare and reproductive health services and increase health literacy.

I joined the LTP to be a part of a space that fosters creative and critical discussions around important leadership and public health topics. I'm grateful to be a part of a program where I can learn from others and share my own experiences.



Sierra Acker (she/her)

Sierra is a Master of Public Health and Physician Assistant student concentrating in Maternal and Child Health.

As a current MPH and PA student, I hope to use my lens in public health to clinically address the developing needs of maternal health. I am interested in the role hormones play in the pathology of disease for women, and I believe in practicing medicine through the life cycle and preventative approach. I am also interested in developing better support for women through prenatal and postnatal care and using evidence-based practice to deliver health care needs on a community-inclusive level.

The LTP program equips me with the tools to be a leader of change in the medical community. There is so much to be learned from the intersection of public health and clinical medicine, and using leadership as a framework to catalyze change empowers us to be the ones to create it.



Katie Ghogasian (she/her)

Katie is a second-year Master of Public Health student concentrating in Health Policy.

I am interested in pursuing a career that allows me to advocate for changes in health policy to promote equitable healthcare access for all groups, especially to expand access to primary care. Through my MPH program concentrating in health policy, I have learned about the many gaps in our current healthcare system that need to be addressed to improve health outcomes in the U.S., and I hope to pursue a career in policy work to fill the gaps.

I chose to join the LTP because I knew it would be a great opportunity to make connections with my peers, grow as a leader, and pursue my interest in maternal and child health further than I can with the normal health policy curriculum.



Cassie Navalta (she/her)

Cassie is a second-year Master of Public Health student concentrating in Maternal and Child Health.

I am interested in developing school- and community-based programs. I also want to help women access pre- and post-natal care.

I wanted more skills on how to lead teams, partner with different organizations, and organize programs to be more effective.



Akhilesh Anil Jakhete (he/him)

Akhilesh is a second-year Master of Public Health student concentrating in Epidemiology.

My career interests align with contributing to the research in chronic disease as it affects a large proportion of the population worldwide. I intend to use my epidemiological skills to identify risk factors responsible for chronic diseases, particularly cancer, and use that knowledge to develop prevention programs benefiting a large number of people.

I chose to join the LTP because it will provide me an opportunity to develop my leadership skills as well as provide insight into the research in maternal and child health and how I could use my background in epidemiology to contribute to the research done in the maternal and child health sector.



Trisha Maragathavel (she/her)

Trisha is a second-year Master of Public Health student concentrating in Epidemiology.

I am interested in the intersection between epidemiology and maternal child health, specifically as it pertains to healthcare delivery and access. I aspire to work in the family planning and reproductive health fields and reduce healthcare disparities for expecting and new mothers.

I chose to join the LTP because I know I will gain many valuable leadership skills through a maternal and child health lens that will help me throughout my professional public health career!



Hervinah Celestin (she/her)

My professional focus lies in child development and comprehensive adolescent sexual reproductive health education. I hope to have a career that involves translating public health knowledge into accessible and engaging content for younger audiences, using marketing and social media strategies.

I chose to join the MCH LTP because as a first-generation student, I wanted to leverage every opportunity to enhance my public health leadership skills and learn outside of the classroom.