Health Services Management & Community Development (HSMCD) Alumni Career Profiles

Whether you are a first year student exploring career and major options or an alumnaus who is thinking about a job change, alumni career profiles provide opportunities to learn about a professional’s career path and decision-making process. Alumni career profiles are provided for students exploring degree options or alumni who are considering a job transition to learn more about the career paths taken by our program graduates. The profiles provide a glimpse of the wide range of careers available to Health Services Management and Community Development Professionals.

Alumni Career Snapshot

- Jamee Sholtz, Class of 2006
- 1st Position after HSMCD Graduation: Health Promotion Consultant, UniCare
- Current Position: Public Health Education, Kansas Arthritis Program, KDHE

Why did you choose to major in HSMCD? If you were starting out again, what would you do differently?
This major was presented to me as a new program during my freshman year and I found it challenging and interesting. The idea of combining business and healthcare seemed to satisfy a personal and community need in healthcare. I always knew I wanted to work in the health care field, I just didn’t know what area. I knew I wanted to help people. I wouldn’t do anything differently. I am really happy with the way things turned out.

Describe your career path since graduation.
After graduation I continued my employment with the March of Dimes to assist them in the upcoming events: Wichita WalkAmerica and the Chef’s Auction. I continued with March of Dimes until November when I was hired in my current position at UniCare Health plan of Kansas - 8 months after graduation.

What advice would you give to someone just starting the HSMCD program?
Be yourself, enthusiastic and do your best!

What did you enjoy most about the HSMCD program?
The classes were small, so you really got to know everyone in your program. I also loved learning about the community and the business side of providing medical care.
Where did you do your practicum and what did you learn from it?
I did my practicum at the March of Dimes and was their Special Events Coordinator. I got first-hand experience in the community side of healthcare. The March of Dimes is an excellent example of a community based organization that I was able to be a part of. While I was there, my responsibility was to plan the successful WalkAmerica Walk in El Dorado from start to finish.

What is your current position and how long have you been with your employer?
I am the Health Promotion Consultant and I have been with UniCare for a little over a year.

Describe the main responsibilities of your position.
I serve as a major point of contact between community-based organizations and our plan. Among my responsibilities, I:

- develop relationships with community-based organizations to widen member referral network;
- educate physicians on ways to link members to available community services;
- help raise awareness of programs for asthma, diabetes, prenatal care, and childhood obesity;
- promote plan programs and services at health fairs and other community events throughout the state;
- negotiate local health education contracts with community-based organizations and vendors.

What are some of the things you like to do in your work?
I love being out in the community and working with our members, getting to plan the events that our members attend, and being able to go out in the community and meet the different organizations that help our members.

What do you find most challenging about your job/graduate program?
Working through the barriers of communication with our members, whether it is language, education or transportation.

What skills are most important for your kind of work?
Being a compassionate, caring person and having good public speaking skills.

Where, in your opinion, is the best place to look for a job in this field?
Through networking with the professors and in the community, as well as participating in the different career fairs.

What job search methods did you use to obtain your current position?
Networking.

What professional organizations do you belong to? Should a student join them now?
I am a board member of the March of Dimes, Safe Kids Coalition, Tobacco Free Wichita and Sedgwick County Early Childhood Coordination Council. Current students should join any of the organizations they are interested in to obtain exposure and experience in the community.

How well did your experiences at WSU prepare you for your current job?
Very well. The classes that focused on the healthcare needs of the community and how to reach various populations have now become the focus of my current position. Even the general education classes, such as Speech, Psychology and Sociology, have enhanced my ability to be successful.