

Tab 32

External letters of support:

Commissioner, KY Dept. of Public Health

Health Sciences Deans of KY Universities:

Eastern KY University

University of Louisville

Western KY University



RECEIVED

JAN 28 2004

**CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES
COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY**

DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH
275 EAST MAIN STREET, HS1GWA
FRANKFORT, KY 40621
(502) 564-3970 TELEPHONE
(502) 564-9377 FAX

January 16, 2004

Tom Samuels, J. D.
School of Public Health
University of Kentucky
121 Washington Ave.
CAHP Bldg. 101 A
Lexington, Ky. 40536

Dear Mr. Samuels:

This is to confirm our continued support for the growth and development of the School for Public Health. The Kentucky Department for Public Health fully supports the effort to achieve accreditation by the Council on Education in Public Health (CEPH). As we understand the situation CEPH accreditation will enable continued progress toward status as a College of Public Health with all its attendant strengths. This department has provided teachers and fiscal support to the existing programs and will continue to do so to the extent possible.

This department, the state's local health departments and Kentucky's overall health system have all benefited by the work done up to now. Many public health workers have obtained their first taste of formal public health training and the results are obvious. One has but to drive through Salyersville, Kentucky to see signs at both ends of town promoting comprehensive public health planning for the community. Their public health director participated in the Public Health Leadership Institute, went home, and hit the ground running. A year later, that health department received the Commissioner's Award for the Most Improved Local Health Department.

The school has assisted us in many ways with our bioterrorism preparations and several public health workers and others are pursuing masters and doctoral degrees. A cursory analysis of this state's formal training quickly demonstrates that our shortcomings are similar to the national training issues so clearly described in the Institute

RECEIVED

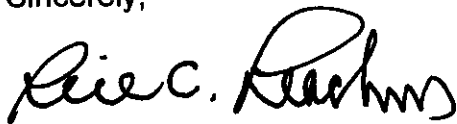
JAN 28 2004

of Medicine's 2003 monograph, "Who Will Keep the Public Healthy?" The need for education is clear and the impact of an accredited academic public health program is obvious. Some believe that the relative paucity of formally trained public health workers in our state contributes to part of our terrible health status measures. And this poor health status diverts public and private funds from other meaningful enterprises. In this sense, an accredited public health program is an economic development engine and goodness knows our state needs all the economic development thrust it can generate.

Finally, let me reference the department's strategic plan, "A Public Health Improvement Plan," published in 1998. That document clearly identified the need for postgraduate education to provide degree programs and other training of public health professionals. It also set a goal to create a workforce development plan to address educational requirements for public health professionals, the model competencies needed, and long-term employment projections.

In summary, Kentucky needs an accredited School of Public Health to strengthen its ability to protect, promote, and monitor the health of Kentuckians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rice C. Leach". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rice C. Leach, MD
Commissioner



EASTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY
Serving Kentuckians Since 1906

College of Health Sciences
Office of the Dean
FAX (859) 622-1140

January 20, 2004

203 Rowlett Building
521 Lancaster Avenue
Richmond, KY 40475-3102
(859) 622-1523

Dr. Tom Samuels, Acting Dean
School of Public Health
University of Kentucky
121 Washington Avenue
Lexington, KY 40536-0003

Re: Support for College of Public Health at University of Kentucky

Dear Dr. Samuels:

The University of Kentucky has a long history of public health education beginning in 1917; therefore, as the University is moving to be a top 20 research and education institution it is imperative that it attain an "accredited College of Public Health."

Eastern Kentucky University's College of Health Sciences support the University of Kentucky in its efforts to become an accredited College of Public Health. A College of Public Health will allow UK the opportunity to access research funding earmarked exclusively for accredited College of Public Health and allow students and faculty training opportunities which are also only available for accredited institutions.

The University of Kentucky has always worked closely with our public health programs at comprehensive institutions in Kentucky. UK's School of Public Health, in conjunction with UL, WKU and ECU, are working together in a consortium to improve the health status of the citizens of the Commonwealth. We are working, with UK's leadership, to educate students and practitioners; conduct research on diseases, health practices and decision making that leads to positive health status; and provide services to the practitioners of public health and other professions in their activities to improve the health of the public.

UK offers a Dr.P.H. degree which allows our MPH students an opportunity for an advanced degree. UK is seeking CEPH accreditation for the Dr.P.H. degree. The criteria of CEPH states that the Dr.P.H. degree can be CEPH accredited only if granted by an accredited College of Public Health.

The College of Health Sciences enthusiastically supports the University of Kentucky's School of Public Health to become a College of Public Health.

Sincerely,

Dr. David Gale, Dean
College of Health Sciences
Eastern Kentucky University



Richard D. Clover, M.D.
Dean

School of Public Health and
Information Sciences
University of Louisville
Louisville, Kentucky 40292

Office: 502-852-3299
Fax: 502-852-3291

January 23, 2004

Thomas W. Samuel, JD, MBA
Interim Director
University of Kentucky School of Public Health
121 Washington Avenue
Lexington, KY 40536-0003

Dear Dr. Samuel:


Please accept this letter in demonstration of my full support for the establishment of a College of Public Health at the University of Kentucky.

As you are aware, the University of Louisville and the University of Kentucky are undergoing concurrent processes of accreditation for their respective Schools of Public Health. The diversity of backgrounds and interests of the faculty at each school is reflected in the emphases and objectives of each institution. Nonetheless, we have worked closely together to establish collaborative agendas most suitable for the distinct missions of our schools. When considering the pervasive public health problems of the Commonwealth, there are many educational, research, and service opportunities for both universities. By developing synergy in our educational efforts to establish distance learning curricula for each of the five core public health courses, we minimize duplicative efforts. This early collaboration allows each school to specialize in complementary content areas.

Accreditation by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) provides access to significant research and training dollars that would otherwise not be accessible. Last year alone, the Association of Schools of Public Health in collaboration with the CDC and other agencies awarded approximately \$80 million to accredited colleges of public health in the United States. Access to a portion of such funding is critical to the realization of the goals set by each institution.

For these reasons, I support, without reservation, the creation of an independent College of Public Health at the University of Kentucky and its decision to seek CEPH accreditation.

Sincerely,



Richard D. Clover, MD
Dean

RECEIVED

FEB 09 2004

Office of the Dean
College of Health & Human Services
Office: 270-745-7003
Fax: 270-745-7073
john.bonaguro@wku.edu



Western Kentucky University
1 Big Red Way
Bowling Green, KY 42101-3576

January 28, 2004

Dr. Tom Samuel
Dean
School of Public Health
University of Kentucky
Lexington, KY 40506

Dear Dr. Samuel:

It is a pleasure to write a letter of support for the creation of a College of Public Health at the University of Kentucky. As Dean of the College of Health and Human Services at Western Kentucky University, I'm very supportive of new initiatives and programs that will improve the health of residents in the Commonwealth, particularly in terms of the improvement in the skills and practice of a severely under trained public health workforce.

The University of Kentucky has a long history in public health education. I personally worked with two "pioneers", Drs. Joe Fred Sils and Carl Peter, at UK in public health education during my formative stages of my career while at Ohio University in the 1980's. Over the years, UK has worked collaboratively with other institutions in the Commonwealth in support of public health education. Western Kentucky University has the only CEPH accredited program in Public Health. It is a growing program with approximately 90 graduate students. Our MPH emphasizes the application of theory to practice, which is the mission of comprehensive institutions like WKU. The program emphasizes health education/behavior and environmental health sciences. The environmental health program operates the only mobile environmental health and hazardous waste emergency vehicle in the State of Kentucky.

The creation of a College of Public Health at U of K will provide increased opportunities for our programs to collaborate. A College of Public Health will create significant research opportunities that will have a positive impact upon the health of residents in western Kentucky. For example, we are currently collaborating with faculty at UK on bioterrorism preparedness assessment. We anticipate this type of research collaboration will continue and expand with the creation of the College of Public Health. Our faculties are also collaborating on curriculum development such as joint web-based courses for MPH students.

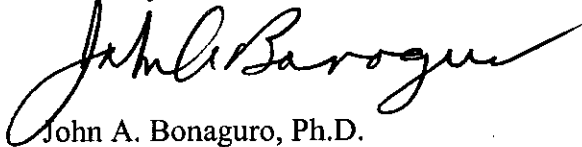


The Dr.PH at UK provided opportunities for our MPH students to continue their education. In December I met with the faculty in the School of Public at UK and extended an invitation to visit our campus to discuss the DR.PH with our MPH students. Dr. John Wiggs has been in contact with us and plans to visit campus in the near future. Through collaboration we can work to increase opportunities for our students to matriculate to doctoral level programs. Our MPH is a good fit for the Dr.PH at UK.

In closing, I support the development of the College of Public Health at UK. WKU is the only accredited MPH program and we have a highly skilled faculty and staff. The College of Public Health at UK will enhance our opportunities to collaborate to improve public health in the Commonwealth.

If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me a your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John A. Bonaguro".

John A. Bonaguro, Ph.D.

Dean