

Kristen L. Brewer, Ph.D., CHES®

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Department of Public Health
School of Science and Health Profession
Simmons University
Boston, MA 02115

Pronouns: She/her/hers
Office Phone: (617) 521-2398
Cell Phone: (931) 802-3770
Email: Brewer@simmons.edu

CURRENT POSITION

Simmons University, Boston, MA 02115
Assistant Professor, Department of Public Health
January 2024-present

EDUCATION

Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Carbondale, IL
Ph.D., Health Education, May 2021
Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, TN
M.S., *with honors*, Concentration in Public Health Education, 2017
B.S., *with honors*, Major: Political Science. Minor: English, 2008
Tennessee State University, Nashville, TN
M.P.A., 2014
Certificate in Non-profit management, School of Public Service and Human Services, 2014

Certifications/Licensures

CHES – NCHCEC

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE – ACADEMIC

Simmons University, Boston, MA
Assistant Professor: Current position (2024-present)
Courses taught:

- Undergraduate level: Introduction to Public Health
- Graduate level: Socio-structural Determinants of Health, Health Equity and Social Justice, Immersion Experience (Arizona and Tennessee), Health Equity Change Project Implementation series, Health Policy Analysis and Change.

Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, KY

Assistant Professor: 2021-2023

Courses taught:

- Graduate level: Program Planning in Public Health, Health Behavior, Public Health Issues In Women's Health
- Undergraduate level: Human Sexuality
- Served as interim MPH Coordinator from Oct. 22-June 2023
 - Reviewed and admitted applications
 - Advised MPH students
 - Audited student files for program completion

Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Carbondale, IL

Interim MPH Coordinator: Spring 2021-Summer 2021

- Advise students in the Master of Public (MPH) program.
- Assist students in negotiating and securing field placement sites for MPH students, including development and approval of MOUs.
- Oversee evaluation of student performance in field placement settings including assessment of capstone projects (PH 599A 599B, 599C).
- Evaluate and monitor performance of preceptors supervising MPH students in field placement settings.
- Serve as the principal liaison between the Public Health Program and multiple healthy community coalitions in the region.
- Serve as the primary student recruiter for the MPH.
- Oversee and monitor the application process to MPH-related programs through SLATE; coordinating correspondence among the MPH Program, the Graduate School, and the applicants as needed.
- Monitor students' progress toward degree, negotiate academic issues, approving field placement and capstone project requirements, and clearing persons for graduation.
- Monitor, review, update, and replace information on the MPH Program's website.

Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Carbondale, IL

Teaching Assistant/Instructor of record: Fall 2017-through Fall 2020

Courses taught:

- Graduate level: Applied Practical Experience Seminar, Applied Practical Experience, Integrated Learning Experience, Foundations of Public Health Knowledge
- Undergraduate level: Foundations of Human Health, Evaluation in Health Education, Community Health, Emotional Health, Human Sexuality

Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, TN

Instructor: Fall 2014- Present

Course taught:

- Undergraduate level: Consumer Health, Public Health Law, Transfer Seminar, Freshman Seminar

MPH INTEGRATIVE LEARNING EXPERIENCE PAPERS**Primary Reader**

- Blakeman, Madison (2023). Teach Condom Sense: A Policy Brief On Sexual Health Education In A Restrictive Legislative Environment
- Allen, T. (2022). *Decreasing Obesity in Rural Kentucky Counties*
- Brady, A. (2022). *The Need for Comprehensive Sexual Health Education in Ohio.*
- Nordgren, A. (2022). *LGBTQ+ Health Discriminations in the Workplace*
- Bishop, H. (2022). *Food Insecurity Among School-Aged Children Grades 1-5 in Eastern Kentucky*
- Hasch, J. (2021). *Adding a Standard Medicare Dental Benefit and Sustainability of Community Health Centers*
- Jackson, J. (2021). *Childhood Obesity in School-aged Children.*

Secondary Reader

- Duncan, Nicholas (2023). Community Health Needs Assessments: The rationale for expanded non-profit hospital and local health department collaboration

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE – NON-ACADEMIC

Advise TN, Paris, Tn

College Access Advisor in Henry County High School, Fall 2016-Summer 2017

- Worked for Advise TN grant
- Met with high school seniors and juniors to assist them in developing post-secondary education plans
- Coordinated meetings and workshops for students, parents, and other high school staff and faculty
- Maintained data and meeting notes

Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, TN

Admissions Counselor, Summer 2008-Fall 2016

- Represented the institution at various events across the state of Tennessee, as well as Kentucky, Missouri, and Illinois
- Developed and implemented recruitment plan to assist with increasing student enrollment
- Assisted with campus events
- Coordinated state Academic Decathlon as host institution

PUBLICATIONS

REFEREED JOURNAL ARTICLES

1. **Brewer K.**, McDermott, R., Bliss, K., McDaniel, J., Gary, M., Fadde, P. (2023). Can We Make the Collegiate Personal Health Course More Relevant and Applicable? *American Journal of Health Education*, 54(3).
2. **Brewer, K.**, McDermott, R., Bliss, K., McDaniel, J., Gary, M. (2022). College-level Personal Health Courses: Could We Improve Their Relevance? *Health Behavior and Policy Review*.
3. **Brewer, K.**, Diehr, A., & Bliss, K. (2020). Why Don't We Just Ask Them? College Student Perceptions on what Topics should be Included in an Introductory Health Course. *Pedagogy in Health Promotion*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2373379920926193>
4. McDaniel, J. T., Hangadumbo, F. S., **Brewer, K.**, Moss, A., Yahaya, M., Lockett, B., Alruwaili, M., Albright, D. L., & Godfrey, K. (2018). Rural-urban disparities in physical activity among service member and veteran cancer survivors. *Military Behavioral Health*, 10(1). doi:10.1080/21635781.2018.1490228

NON-REFEREED JOURNAL ARTICLES

1. **Brewer, K.** (2018). The challenging dual role of being a public health professional degree-seeking student and having a life outside of school – a commentary. *Florida Public Health Review*, 15

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

1. **Brewer, K.** & Coffey, T. *The REACH Clinic: A Response to the Lack of Education and Access for Sexual and Reproductive Health in Tennessee*. Presentation at American Public Health Association annual conference, Minneapolis, MN – November 2024
2. **Brewer, K.** & Coffey, T. *REACH Clinic: A Community Collaboration to Address Reproductive Health Education and Services in a Legislatively Restrictive State*. Presentation at Society for Public Health Education annual conference, St. Louis, MO. – March 2024
3. Damron, T., Cangelosi, J., **Brewer, K.**, Pate, L., & White, R. *Sexual & Reproductive Health PHCI: Consumer Behavior in the Digital Space*. Society of Business, Industry, and Economics conference, Destin, FL. – April 2023

4. **Brewer, K., Eagle, S., & Blakeman, M.** *Let's NOT Talk About Sex: Teacher Insights to Teaching Sex Education in a Restrictive Legislative Environment*. Presentation at Society for Public Health Education annual conference, Atlanta, GA. – March 2023
5. **Brewer, K., Gardner, M., & Eagle.** *Let's NOT talk about sex: A multi-stakeholder approach to reducing teen pregnancy in a restrictive educational environment*. Roundtable presentation at American Public Health Association Annual Conference, Boston, MA – Nov. 2022
6. **Brewer, K. & Bliss, K.** *Active learning strategies in the virtual classroom: Lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic*. Session presentation at the American Public Health Association Annual Conference, Denver, Colorado – October 2021.
7. **Brewer, K.** *Research frustrations in the times of COVID-19*. Student presentation at the International Consortium for Interdisciplinary Education about Health and the Environment, Cologne, Germany (Virtual meeting)– December 2020.
8. **Brewer, K., Bliss, K.** *How is this relevant?* Poster presentation at the International Consortium for Interdisciplinary Education about Health and the Environment, Cologne, Germany – December 2019.
9. **Bliss, K. & Brewer, K.** *Impacting public health students: A collaborative approach to teaching health literacy*. Poster presentation at the Tennessee Public Health Association, Cool Springs, Tennessee – September 2019.
10. **Brewer, K.** *Requiring mental health education: A review*. Workshop presentation at the Tennessee Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance Annual Conference, Murfreesboro, Tennessee – October 2018.
11. **McDaniel, J. T., Hangadumbo, F. S., Brewer, K., Moss, A., Yahaya, M., Lockett, B., Alruwaili, M., Albright, D. L., & Godfrey, K.** *Rural-urban disparities in physical activity among service member and veteran cancer survivors*. Poster presentation at the American Academy of Health Behavior Conference, Portland, Oregon – March 2018.

CURRENT PROJECTS

1. *Expanding LARC in Rural TN and KY*. This project is a collaboration with a women's health clinic and a grassroots organization to provide sexual and reproductive health education and long-acting reversible contraceptives (LARC) to the rural middle Tennessee and western Kentucky region. Educational materials and workshops will be developed and delivered by the grassroots organization and LARCs will be offered by the clinic providers. *Manuscript under revision*.
2. *Understanding barriers and attitudes in accessing sexual/reproductive health education and care*. This is a mixed-methods study to help provide context to perceived or actual barriers to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) education and access. *Data collection phase*.
3. *Development and evaluation of family life curriculum for CMCSS*. PI: Kristen Brewer. Co-PIs: Marilyn Gardner, Susan Eagle. This project is designed to develop and evaluate curriculum aimed at addressing sexual health education in a middle TN school district. Status: *Writing manuscript phase*.

SELECTED AWARDS AND HONORS

- WKU: First Time Lead Research Award, *Fall 2023*
- WKU: CITL Teaching Honor nominee. *Spring 2023*
- WKU: CITL Teaching Honor nominee. *Spring 2022*

GRANTS

- Clarksville Q Community grant. Amount: TBD – *June 2025*
- Clarksville Q Community grant. Amount: \$17,000 – *March 2024*
- CHHS QTAG: \$3,000 – *Fall 2022*
- BRIGHT Coalition Grant. Amount: \$1,000 – *Aug. 2022*

Training and Professional Development

- Inclusive Excellence Learning Community (HHMI). Simmons University – *Fall 2024*.
- Research Capacity Building Workshop – University of Cincinnati – *Spring 2023*

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

- Certified Health Education Specialist – NCHEC, Inc. (*2020*)
- American Public Health Association (*Fall 2017 – present*)
- Society for Public Health Education (*Fall 2018-present*)
- Academic Health Department Consortium Retreat (*July 2025*)

SERVICE

PROFESSIONAL

- Massachusetts Department of Public Health Academic Health Department Consortium, *2025-present*
- APHA Abstract reviewer, *2023-current*
- APHA SRH Contraception task force, *Fall 2021-present*
- APHA SRH treasurer, *Fall 2021-present*
- *Sexuality, Gender, and Policy* reviewer, *Spring 2024-present*
- Editorial Assistant for *Journal of School Health*, *Spring 2018-present*

INSTITUTION

Simmons University

- Faculty hiring committee. *Fall 2024*
- Power of Interdisciplinary Research, panelist. *Spring 2024*
- Independent study course for graduate student, *Spring 2024*
- Graduate student advising (10 students), *Spring 2024-present*

Western Kentucky University

- Faculty hiring committee – *Spring 2023*
- Interim MPH Coordinator – *Fall 2022-Summer 2023*
- CHES CE Program Review Committee: member. *Fall 2021-present*
- Student Deliberate dialogue - sexual health education. *Spring 2022*
- CHHS Wellness committee: member. *Spring 2022-present*
- CHHS Honors committee: member. *Spring 2022-present*
- Interview for College Heights Herald. Topic: being safe in a hook-up Culture. *Spring 2022*
- Instructor Hiring Committee. Member. *Spring 2022*
- How to stay safe while hooking up. Safe sex education with CHHS LLC. *Fall 2022*.

Southern Illinois University

- Elena M. Sliepceвич Centennial Symposium on the Future of School Health Committee. Committee member. Summer *2018-Spring 2019*. Chair: Robert McDermott
- School of Human Science working group. Committee member. *Fall 2019-present*
- Reproductive Rights and Justice Panel. Coordinator and Co-moderator. *Fall 2019*

COMMUNITY

- REACH Clinic, co-founder- Free clinic offering free long-acting reversible contraceptives. *Jan. 2024 - present*.
- Ruth's Army—Founding member. An organization designed to help with education, outreach, and access to help reduce risky sexual behavior. *Summer 2022—present*
- Invited Panelist – Future Faculty Workshop, Northeastern University. *Fall 2025*
- Invited Panelist– Rural Reproductive Health Panel, Brandeis University. *Fall 2024*
- Health Advocacy Panel at Austin Peay State University. Invited panelist. *March 27, 2023*
- Clarksville High School Podcast: Invited to discuss the importance of sexual health education in the public school system. *Feb. 2023*
- Invited speaker at Leadership Clarksville. Discussed development of system Family Life Curriculum- *Jan. 2023*
- BRIGHT Coalition through Barron River District Health Department. *Fall 2021-Present*
- Guest speaker on comprehensive sexual health education for Marion High School in Illinois through Department of Public Health. *Spring 2018*