WashU Public Health

School Assembly

January 15, 2025

1. Welcome
2. Dean's updates
3. School of Public Health priorities, updates
4. Faculty and staff hiring, update
5. Open conversation
6. Other

WashU Public Health

1. Welcome
Dean Sandro Galea (sgalea@wustl.edu) welcomed attendees to the first School of Public Health assembly.

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WashU Public Health

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WashU Public Health

WashU Public Health

2. Dean's Update
Dean Sandro Galea shared school-wide updates.

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WashU Public Health

FIGURE 1. The power of the prevailing paradigm: drawing of an Australian kangaroo by a sixteenth-century Dutch artist (Cornelis de Jode), based on descriptions by early explorers.

McMichael AJ. Prisoners of the proximate: loosening the constraints on epidemiology in an age of change. *American journal of epidemiology* 1999;149(10):887-897.

WashU Public Health

What are we trying to do?

How do we do this?

Why are we doing this? Why now?

What is my role?

What is everyone's role?

What are we trying to do?

How do we do this?

Why are we doing this? Why now?

What is my role?

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WashU Public Health

To build a school that leads with excellence in interdisciplinary population health science and scholarship, distinction in educational programs, and a deep commitment to local and global impact

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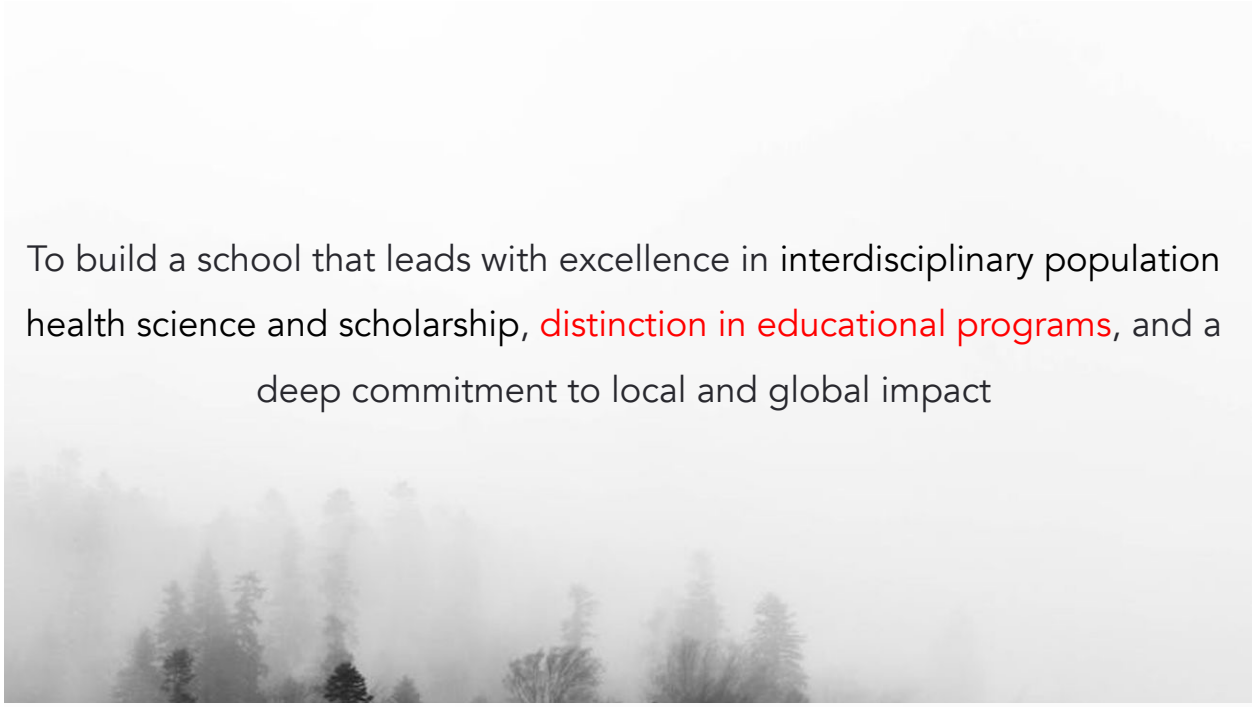
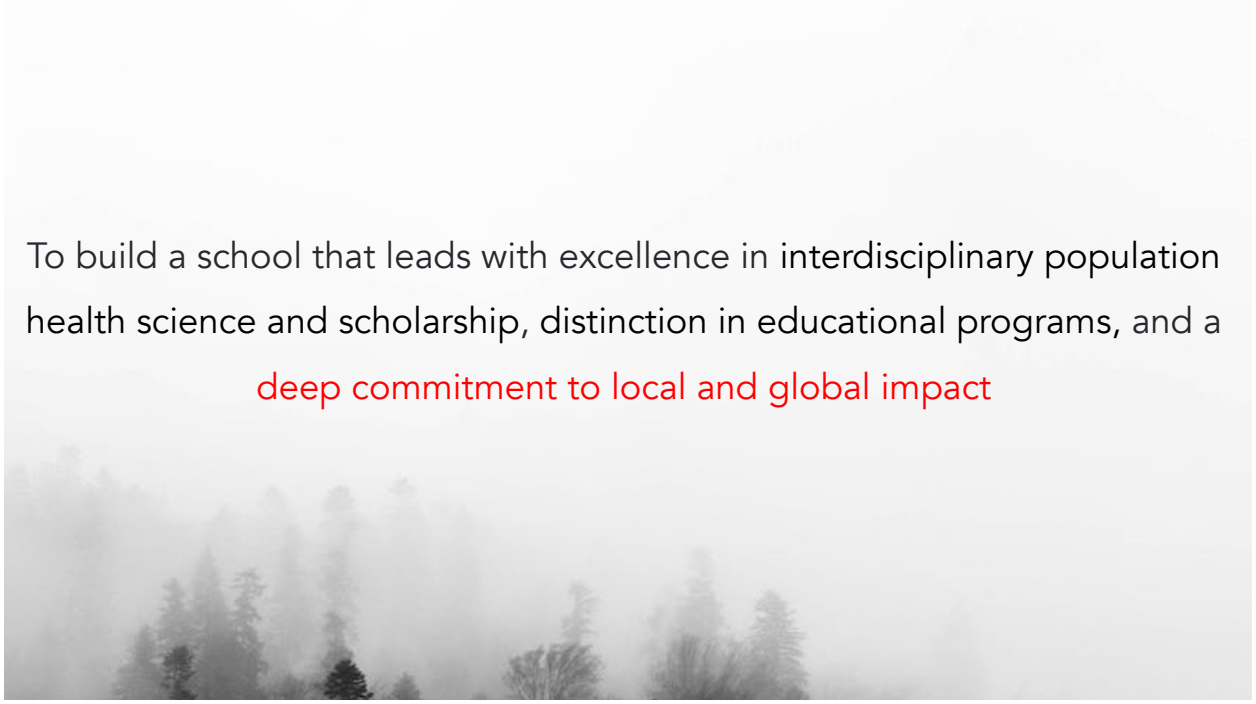
WashU Public Health





WashU Public Health

What are we trying to do?

How do we do this?

Why are we doing this? Why now?

What is my role?

What is everyone's role?

WashU Public Health

1. New ways of thinking
2. New ways of doing the work
3. Better pathways to impact
4. Novel partnerships

Building an exceptional School of Public Health

Engage world-class faculty

Recruit innovative, intellectually curious, and heterodox thinkers who are animated by the call of science and scholarship.

Nurture outstanding teachers and students

Build a curriculum that is rooted in public health fundamentals with the flexibility to evolve as the field progresses, and offer both in-person and digital learning options.

Public Health plus

Forge partnerships across WashU's nine schools and with the public and private sectors to create a big-tent movement for public health.

Prioritize local and global impact

Pursue research, education, and practice that help build a better world, starting in St. Louis and extending our reach globally.

WashU Public Health

What are we trying to do?

How do we do this?

Why are we doing this? Why now?

What is my role?

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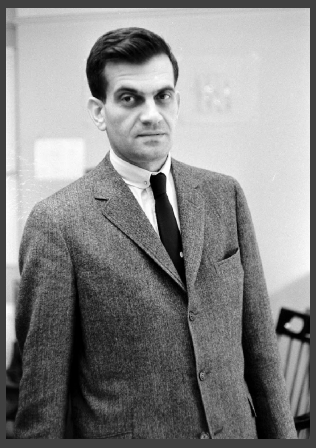
A long history of excellence in public health at WashU

Evarts Graham



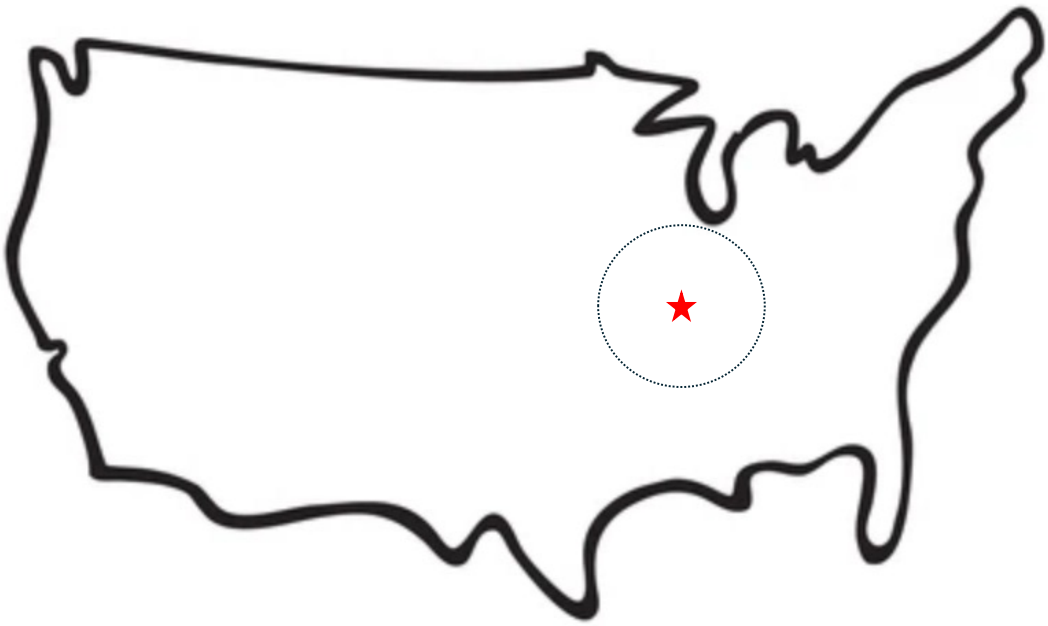
Ernst Wynder

WashU Public Health

School of Public Health evolution, more recently

	2024	2025	2026
Dean search	Spring/Summer Inaugural Dean announced	January Dean begins work	Fall Dean leads fully accredited SPH
Faculty policy and hiring	SPH faculty hiring activity	SPH external faculty hires SPH internal hires, all tracks	Fall Faculty working in accredited SPH
Education Programs	Fall Launch undergraduate minor Faculty hired in A&S for PH&S minor and major	Fall Launch undergraduate major SPH welcomes new MPH and PhD students	Strategic thinking to articulate new curricular directions
CEPH Accreditation	June Initial application submission	Self-study and CEPH site visit	Spring Accreditation announced

WashU Public Health



WashU Public Health

What are we trying to do?

How do we do this?

Why are we doing this? Why now?

What is my role?

What is everyone's role?

1. To work with staff, faculty, students to set vision and direction
2. To build structures that support and advance that vision
3. To externally represent the school, including at WashU
4. To ensure we have resources to sustain and advance our mission

WashU Public Health

What are we trying to do?

How do we do this?

Why are we doing this? Why now?

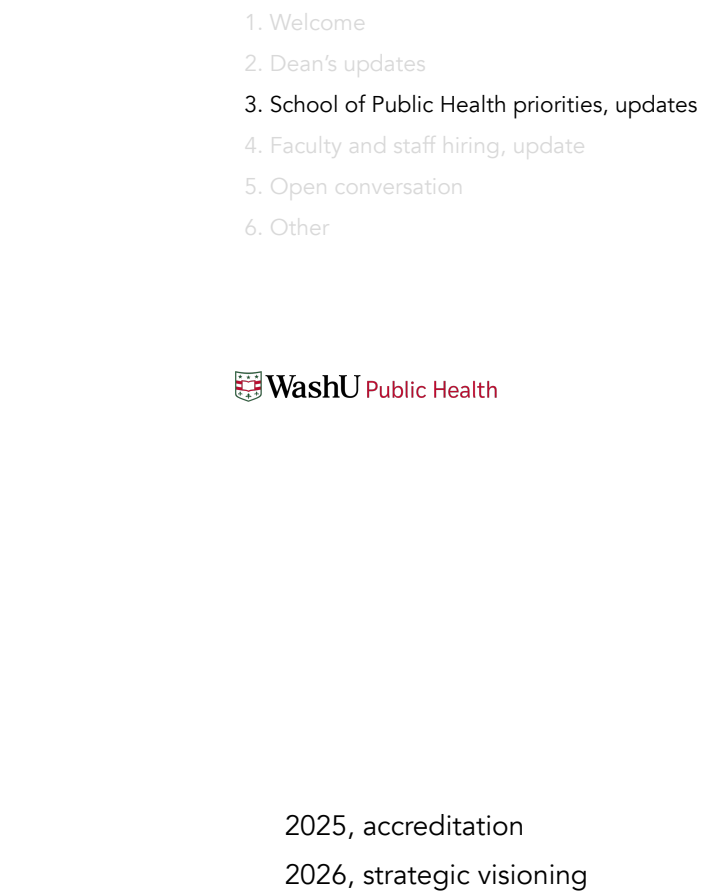
What is my role?

What is everyone's role?

1. Do good, excellent work, in all our areas
2. Engage with the emerging school
3. Represent us well to the world
4. Be patient with the long-run

WashU Public Health

3. School of Public Health priorities, updates
Dean Sandro Galea shared School of Public Health priorities and updates.



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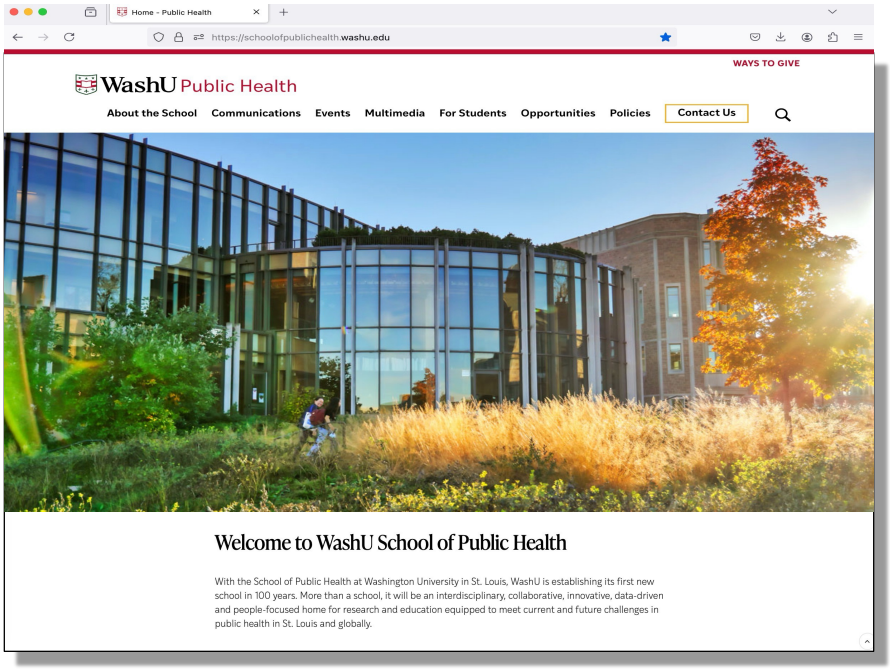

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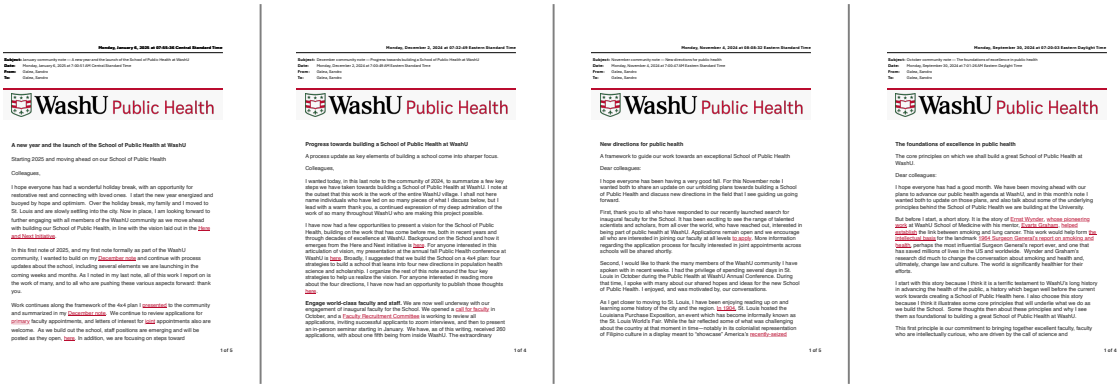

WashU Public Health

A new year and the launch of the School of Public Health at WashU

Starting 2025 and moving ahead on our School of Public Health

Colleagues,

I hope everyone has had a wonderful holiday break, with an opportunity for restorative rest and connecting with loved ones. I start the new year energized and buoyed by hope and optimism. Over the holiday break, my family and I moved to St. Louis and are slowly settling into the city. Now in place, I am looking forward to further engaging with all members of the WashU community as we move ahead with building our School of Public Health, in line with the vision laid out in the Here and Next initiative.

In this first note of 2025, and my first note formally as part of the WashU community, I wanted to build on my December note and continue with process updates about the school, including several elements we are launching in the coming weeks and months. As I noted in my last note, all of this work I report on is the work of many, and to all who are pushing these various aspects forward: thank you.

Work continues along the framework of the 4x4 plan I presented to the community and summarized in my December note. We continue to review applications for primary faculty appointments, and letters of interest for joint appointments also are welcome. As we build out the school, staff positions are emerging and will be posted as they open, here. In addition, we are focusing on steps toward

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WashU Public Health

Progress towards building a School of Public Health at WashU

A process update as key elements of building a school come into sharper focus.

Colleagues,

I wanted today, in this last note to the community of 2024, to summarize a few key steps we have taken towards building a School of Public Health at WashU. I note at the outset that this work is the work of the entire WashU village. I shall not here name individuals who have led on so many pieces of what I discuss below, but I lead with a warm thank you, a continued expression of my deep admiration of the work of so many throughout WashU who are making this project possible.

I have now had a few opportunities to present a vision for the School of Public Health, building on the work that has come before me, both in recent years and through decades of excellence at WashU. Background on the School and how it emerges from the Here and Next initiative is here. For anyone interested in the articulation of vision, my presentation at the annual fall Public Health conference at WashU is here. Broadly, I suggested that we build the School on a 4x4 plan: four strategies to build a school that leans into four new directions in population health science and scholarship. I organize the rest of this note around the four key strategies to help us realize the vision. For anyone interested in reading more about the four directions, I have now had an opportunity to publish those thoughts here.

Engage world-class faculty and staff. We are now well underway with our engagement of inaugural faculty for the School. We opened a call for faculty in October, and a Faculty Recruitment Committee is working to review all applications, inviting successful applicants to zoom interviews, and then to present an in-person seminar starting in January. We have, as of this writing, received 260 applications, with about one fifth being from inside WashU. The extraordinary

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WashU Public Health

New directions for public health

A framework to guide our work towards an exceptional School of Public Health

Dear colleagues:

I hope everyone has been having a very good fall. For this November note I wanted both to share an update on our unfolding plans towards building a School of Public Health and discuss new directions in the field that I see guiding us going forward.

First, thank you to all who have responded to our recently launched search for inaugural faculty for the School. It has been exciting to see the range of talented scientists and scholars, from all over the world, who have reached out, interested in being part of public health at WashU. Applications remain open and we encourage all who are interested in joining our faculty at all levels to apply. More information regarding the application process for faculty interested in joint appointments across schools will be shared shortly.

Second, I would like to thank the many members of the WashU community I have spoken with in recent weeks. I had the privilege of spending several days in St. Louis in October during the Public Health at WashU Annual Conference. During that time, I spoke with many about our shared hopes and ideas for the new School of Public Health. I enjoyed, and was motivated by, our conversations.

As I get closer to moving to St. Louis, I have been enjoying reading up on and learning some history of the city and the region. In 1904, St. Louis hosted the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, an event which has become informally known as the St. Louis World's Fair. While the fair reflected some of what was challenging about the country at that moment in time—notably in its colonialist representation of Filipino culture in a display meant to "showcase" America's recently-seized

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WashU Public Health

The foundations of excellence in public health

The core principles on which we shall build a great School of Public Health at WashU

Dear colleagues:

I hope everyone has had a good month. We have been moving ahead with our plans to advance our public health agenda at WashU, and in this month's note I wanted both to update on those plans, and also talk about some of the underlying principles behind the School of Public Health we are building at the University.

But before I start, a short story. It is the story of Ernst Wynder, whose pioneering work at WashU School of Medicine with his mentor, Evarts Graham, helped establish the link between smoking and lung cancer. This work would help form the intellectual basis for the landmark 1964 Surgeon General's report on smoking and health, perhaps the most influential Surgeon General's report ever, and one that has saved millions of lives in the US and worldwide. Wynder and Graham's research did much to change the conversation about smoking and health and, ultimately, change law and culture. The world is significantly healthier for their efforts.

I start with this story because I think it is a terrific testament to WashU's long history in advancing the health of the public, a history which began well before the current work towards creating a School of Public Health here. I also choose this story because I think it illustrates some core principles that will underlie what we do as we build the School. Some thoughts then about these principles and why I see them as foundational to building a great School of Public Health at WashU.

This first principle is our commitment to bringing together excellent faculty, faculty who are intellectually curious, who are driven by the call of science and

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WashU Public Health

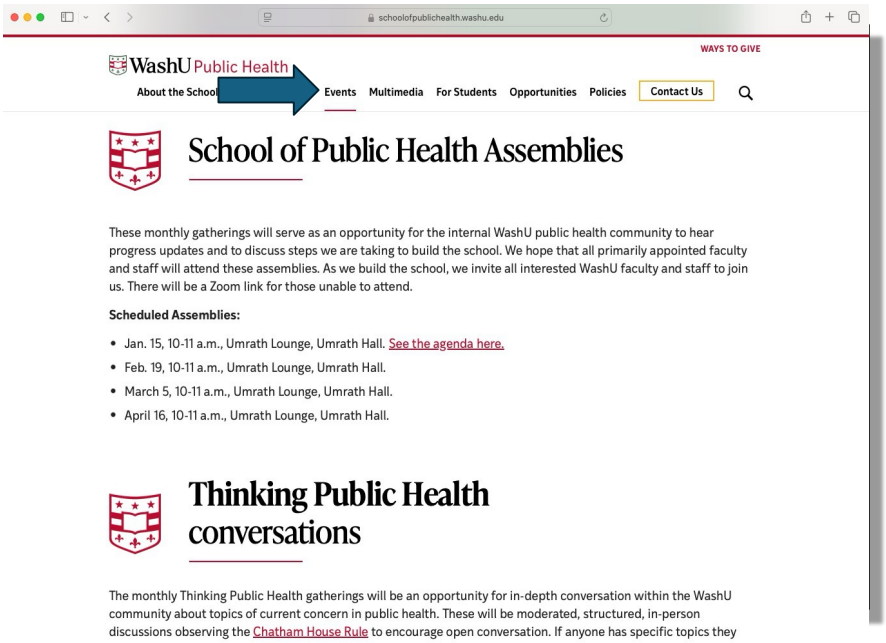
Public Health in Progress

Weekly news from the School of Public Health at Washington University in St. Louis

January 13, 2025

Dear colleagues,

Welcome to Public Health in Progress. This weekly note is intended to be an informal update on progress in the School of Public Health (SPH), and also an opportunity for me to share thoughts and ideas relevant to the moment. I am conscious that such forms of communication are one-sided, so I do encourage anyone to reach out to me directly with reflections on these ideas or with anything



WashU Public Health

4. Faculty and staff hiring, update

Dean Sandro Galea provided an update on faculty and staff hiring.

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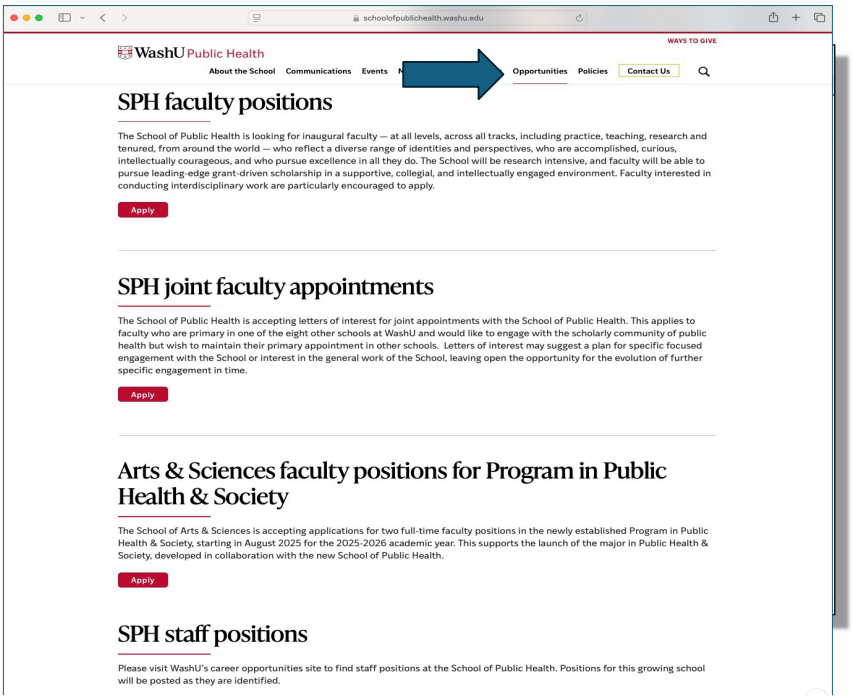


WashU Public Health

On faculty hiring

334 applications

63 internal (18%), 271 external (82%)

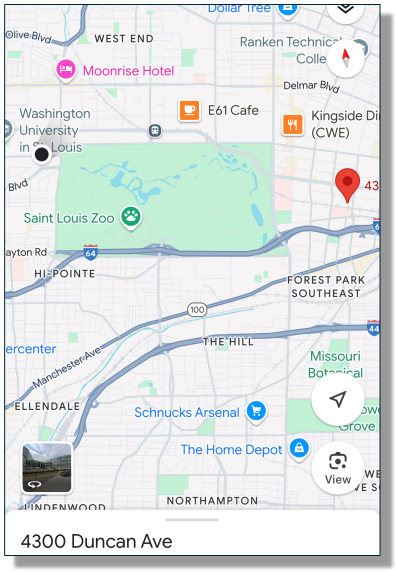
201 female (60%)

81 URM (24%)

On staff hiring

WashU Public Health

Oh, where is everyone going to sit?



5. Open conversation

Dean Sandro Galea opened the floor for conversation.

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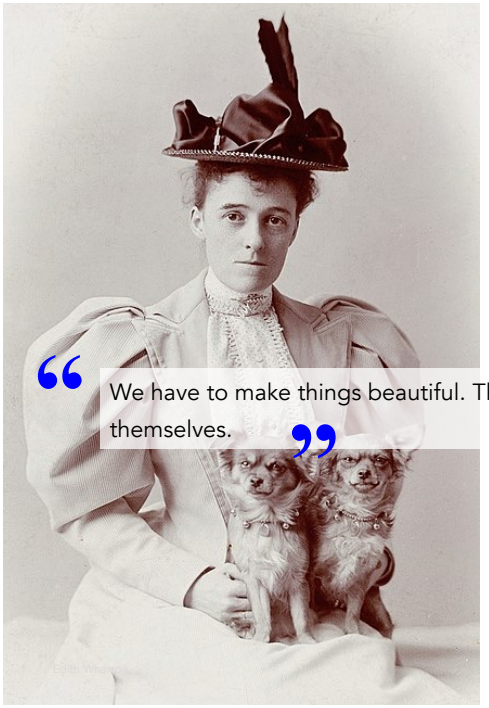

“We have to make things beautiful. They do not grow so of themselves.”

Thank you

WashU Public Health