

**Yasmen Simonian – Performance and College Review**  
Dr. Ezekiel R. Dumke College of Health Professions (DCHP) Report  
*Excellence in Education in Order to Deliver Quality Healthcare*  
*Together We Save Lives*  
March 11, 2024

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as the dean of the Dumke College of Health Professions (DCHP) since 2008. The College has been very productive, progressive and with adherence to the strategic plans, goals and mission of the institution. This has all been possible because of our dedicated, knowledgeable, hardworking, giving and caring College Executive Committee, faculty, staff and exceptional students, in addition to the support of the administration, development, supportive dean colleagues, and many across the campus and our community. We have also been fortunate to receive funding from individuals, foundations and healthcare communities that believe in us, value and validate what we do and hire our graduates. We have also benefited from other external entities, Utah Talent Ready funds and more.

Being a member of our Weber State family for over forty-two years has provided me with specific knowledge of our institution, the ability to learn from colleagues and students and valuable connections that we have with our community partners. My leadership philosophy has always been to operate with an open-door policy, be transparent and listen to everyone so they can be heard. I confidently believe in empowering and supporting our Leadership Team, the College Executive Committee (CEC), faculty, staff and students. We have dedicated, brilliant and caring individuals in our college with great abilities and expertise to advance our educational offerings to meet the needs of our students, our healthcare partners and the communities we serve.

During the past unprecedented pandemic period, everyone had to modify the way we offered courses, laboratory activities, research projects, clinical rotations and more. That took immense dedication, selflessness, expertise, knowledge and abundance of care. We learned from all the modifications, became better prepared and continue to thrive. I love what we do at WSU, my job and the profession!

This April we will be graduating our sixth cohort

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**Ten Year Trends: Graduation Trends, FTE**

	<b>Spring 2017</b>	<b>Spring 2018</b>	<b>Spring 2019</b>	<b>Spring 2020</b>	<b>Spring 2021</b>	<b>Spring 2022</b>	<b>Spring 2023</b>
Athletic Training	NA	NA	NA	4	11	20	34
Dent Hygiene	62	43	65	60	38	48	59
Emergency Health.	13	25	30	40	54	52	53
HAS	159	178	158	195	164	160	146

Health Sci

There has been a slight decline in the enrollment of our HAS, MLS and Respiratory Therapy programs. Consequently, we have hired a graphic designer to assist our marketing and outreach coordinator to strengthen and increase the



**Cohen A.** Relationship Between Perceived Confidence for Strength Training, Functional Movement Competence, and Injury Risk Among Collegiate Athletes. Poster presentation at the National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA) National Conference in New Orleans, LA, July 2022.

Brunner M, **Cohen A.** Head Position and Muscle Activation During the Back Squat. Oral presentation at the National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA) National Conference





Garr, L., Palmer, M., & Carter, D. (2023, June 30). "Are Graduate Entrance Exams Shutting Out Diverse Students? The Experience of an MHA Program". AUPHA Annual Meeting, National Harbor, MD.

#### **Textbook and Chapter-**

Shaw, P., and Carter, D. (2024 In Press). Quality and Performance Improvement in Healthcare (Eighth Edition). Chicago, IL: American Health Information Management Association.

Carter, D., & Palmer, M. N. (2024 In Press). Performance Improvement. In N. B. Sayles & L. Gordon (Eds.), Health information management technology: An applied approach (Seventh edition, 2024). AHIMA Press.

#### **Peer-reviewed Journal Article:**

Garr, L., Palmer, M. N., & Carter, D. (2024). Are Graduate Entrance Exams Shutting Out Diverse Students? The Experience of an MHA Program. The Journal of Health Administration Education. Accepted for publication in early 2024.

#### **Case Competitions:**

The Health Administration undergrad program took four students to participate in a national case competition in South Carolina in Fall 2023.

The MHA program had three students participate in the University of Alabama Birmingham Case Competition in 2023 and 2024. The 2024 team made it to the semifinal round.

## **Health Sciences (HS)**

- Dr. Travis Price, department chair, Increase accessibility by lowering costs of textbooks by creating their own teaching materials by Open Educational Resources (OER). This saved several millions of dollars for students.
- Many concurrent high school courses reaching 2600 students x2.
- Giving students extra points for having completed medical Spanish courses/certificates offered by WSU and Intermountain Health.

Dr. Jim Hutchins was named the 2022-2023 Ambrose Amos Shaw Endowed Chair for the Dumke College of Health Professions.

2024's best online associate's degree in health sciences, according to Intelligent.com.

2024's most affordable online bachelor's program in health sciences, according to Intelligent.com.

Dr. Justin Burr was given the Presidential Teaching Excellence Award (2024)

Dr. Justin Burr was accepted to present a poster about exam behaviors at the Human Anatomy and Physiology Society Annual Conference in St. Louis in May, 2024.

Dr. Travis Price, Dr. Jordan West, Dr. Jim Hutchins and Dr. Justin Burr were accepted to present a workshop on formative assessment at the Human Anatomy and Physiology Society Annual Conference in St. Louis in May, 2024.

Four department faculty are presenting at WSU's Annual Thrive Symposium

Dr. Jim Hutchins finished converting our OER text for Medical Terminology to a Pressbooks text, which was the 3rd most downloaded UEN book in Utah in the summer of 2023



## Medical Laboratory Sciences (MLS)

Started a Post-Bachelor Certificate and partnership with the American Society of Microbiology to meet the needs of our larger national community.

The Undergraduate research projects. Dr. Nicholaou, department chair and Ritchey Science Fair chair.

Celebrated the 50-year anniversary on November 10, 2023.

Dr. Scott Moore was recognized as a Fellow of the American College of Lifestyle Medicine (FALCM) in September 2022. This rare award has been given to less than 50 people in the United States.

2024's best online associates in medical assisting, according to Intelligent.com.

2023-2024 John S. Hinckley Fellow Award:

Matthew Nicholaou, Medical Laboratory Sciences

2023 - Moore S, Nicholaou M, Hillhouse T, et al. [Effects of chronic vapor inhalation on mouse body weight, lung morphology, and inflammatory cytokines using a low vapor exposure design.](#)

2023 - Finlinson N, Lacey J, Christensen D, Chan J, Moore S. Intrinsic Predictors of Injury on a Multi-day Wilderness Event for Adolescents and Adult Leaders. *American Journal of Lifestyle Medicine.*

2023;0(0). doi:[10.1177/15598276231178749](https://doi.org/10.1177/15598276231178749)[Links to an external site.](#)

2023 - Moore MS. The Interleaving Trails of Lifestyle and Wilderness Medicine. *American Journal of Lifestyle Medicine.* 2023;17(4):470-475. doi:[10.1177/15598276221140854](https://doi.org/10.1177/15598276221140854)[Links to an external site.](#)

Lund, A. Z., Kohli, R., Nicholaou, M., & Rhees, J. R. (2023). Variations in Low Titer Group O Whole Blood Practices in the United States. *International Journal of Blood Transfusion and*

*Immunohematology*, 13(2),1–7. <https://doi.org/10.5348/100078Z02AL2023RA>

Rebolledo, J., Fishburn, A., Hill, A., Wortman, S., Nicholaou, M., & Rhees, J. R. (2024).

Polyagglutination testing: A survey of current practices and a quality control procedure for T-activated red cells. *Clinical Laboratory Science.* [In Press].

## Annie Taylor Dee School of Nursing (ATDSON)

Dr. Rieneke Holman, department chair

Passed Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) and Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) accreditation.

Celebrated 70 years of nursing education.

Utah workforce grant to grow Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN).

Nurse Practice (DNP) looking to add mental health curriculum.

Received Talent Ready Utah funds to increase enrollment.

Dr. London Lowe wrote an op-ed in the Standard-Examiner on the subject, in addition to publishing it in the Journal for Workplace Health & Safety. She has published and presented nationally and internationally on the topic of disaster preparedness.

LINKS:





2024 Utah Society for Respiratory Care Program Planning Committee member.  
Inducted into the 2023 Class of Fellows of the AARC, a prestigious honor.  
Reappointed as the Vice-President of Internal Affairs for the American College of Respiratory Therapy Education (ACRTE) for a two-year term (2024-2025).  
Represented the Utah Society for Respiratory Care and advocated for HB0570 in both House and Senate committee meetings on Utah's Capitol Hill during the 2024 Utah Legislative Session.  
Member of the Advanced Practitioner Respiratory Therapy (APRT) committee working to introduce the APRT credential and practice to Utah.

Paul Eberle:

Presents annually to the Rocky Mountain Center for Occupational and Environmental Health (NIOSH PFT course), a joint program with the University of Utah and Weber State University.

Sherri Vasas:

Awarded 2023 Teacher of the Year for the Dr. Ezekiel R. Dumke College of Health Professions.  
Elected as the Vice President for the Utah Society for Respiratory Care (USRC).  
The Respiratory Therapy department actively participated in numerous college and community events promoting health and respiratory therapy, with volunteers contributing over 400 hours and reaching over 1100 people.

Sarah Allred:

Elected as a 2024 Utah Society for Respiratory Care Board Member for a three-year term.  
Presented at the 2023 Utah Society Annual Conference on "Caring for Our Caregivers: The Science Behind Compassion, Empathy, and Burnout."

Michell Oki: department chair

2024 Utah Society for Respiratory Care Conference Planning Committee Member.  
Member of the Advanced Practitioner Respiratory Therapy (APRT) committee working to introduce the APRT credential and practice to Utah.

Students served: 17,842 (most students participated in multiple dissections)

Healthcare Presentations: 100

and have actively helped grow the course as they continue to work towards their healthcare career goals. They do everything possible to ensure students' success and facilitate a smooth transition to a healthcare-focused education.

NUAHEC has had the privilege and opportunity to collaborate with Intermountain Health's EKG training program and has sponsored 20 medical scholars as of 2023.

NUAHEC has also collaborated with Your Community Connection in order to offer 77 Healthy Relationship presentations to 8,735 students as of 2023.

NUAHEC has partnered with Intermountain Health to provide our medical scholars with a 12-hour Job Observation

accreditation. He has helped change some of the Marriott Building classrooms to create new office spaces for faculty. As the space is very limited in our buildings, he has a great task for finding additional places for new faculty and classrooms.

- He is the co-author, along with Steve Walston, of two textbooks published in the past two years: Healthcare in the United States: Clinical, Financial, and Operational Dimensions and Organizational Behavior and Theory in Healthcare: Leadership Perspectives and Management Applications, Second Edition. Both are published by Health Administration Press.
- Active in the following professional organizations: ASAHP, APTR, ACHE, APHA, NALBOH, Weber-Morgan County Health Department Board member and teaches MHA courses.
- Carter, D. and Johnson, K. ASAHP Presentation October 2023, Fort Lauderdale, FL
- **Yas Simonian**, DCHP Dean has been active at the local, national and international arenas. She has been representing WSU, DCHP, our community

Furthermore, to meet the WSU Strategic Plans for creating interdisciplinary programs and degrees, DCHP will contribute to those programs i.e. Master of Science in Data Science (MSDS) a BS degree in Environmental and Occupational Health. With the funding from Talent Ready Utah, our Public Health program in the HAS department and the College of Social and Behavioral have participated in creating the Behavioral Health Technician (BHT) certificate.

DCHP has been conducting various Study Abroad programs for over twenty years. Students gain irreplaceable education and experience that brings them closer to being a global citizen and to better understanding of global health. Additionally, provides opportunities for teamwork with other colleges at WSU. During 2022 Spring Break, there were 8 departments and 4 colleges that went on a Study Abroad to Ghana. Their experiences and stories have been beyond fulfilling, productive in saving the stolen trafficked children. There are additional programs are being created for this coming Summer Semester.

Thank