



Academic Health Department Learning Community Report

October 12, 2021

Overview

The [Academic Health Department \(AHD\) Learning Community](#) supports development of [AHD partnerships](#) between public health practice organizations and academic institutions. As a national community of practitioners, educators, and researchers, the AHD Learning Community stimulates discussion and sharing of knowledge; the development of resources; and collaborative learning around establishing, sustaining, and expanding AHD partnerships.

AHD Learning Community Engagement

Despite the decrease in AHD Learning Community activities over the past couple of years, the Learning Community continues to see sustained interest and engagement from the public health community. The Learning Community has more than 1,100 members, and the Learning Community and its resources and tools have been accessed more than 6,500 times so far in 2021. [Council on Linkages Between Academia and Public Health Practice](#) (Council) staff also continue to regularly receive requests for assistance related to AHD partnerships, responding to more than 20 requests from 16 organizations in 10 states and DC during that same time period.

AHD Resources

The [AHD Webinar Series](#) highlights successful AHD partnerships and other topics of interest for developing, sustaining, and expanding AHD partnerships. In December 2020, this series featured the [growing partnership](#) between the Pima County Health Department (PCHD) in Arizona and the University of Arizona Mel & Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health (MEZCOPH). This successful event led to the development of a [Field Notes](#) story by the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's](#) Center for State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Support. Released in July 2021, [Partners in Arizona Help Prepare Future Workforce Through Model Internship Program](#) highlights the PCHD/MEZCOPH internship program, as well as MEZCOPH's AHD internship program. Additional details about both of these programs can be found in the archives of the [December 2020](#) and [May 2021](#) AHD Webinars.

Annual Meetings and Conferences

AHD partnerships were also the focus of sessions at the [Public Health Improvement Training \(PHIT\)](#) and [National Association of County and City Health Officials \(NACCHO\) 360 Conference](#) in June 2021. A two-hour deep dive workshop at PHIT featured speakers from PCHD, MEZCOPH, Pinal County Public Health Services District in Arizona, and Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD) in Nevada. Speakers from PCHD and MEZCOPH were joined by a representative of Graham County Health Department in Arizona for a pre-conference workshop at NACCHO 360. Later this month, an [American Public Health Association Annual Meeting](#) session will focus on how AHD partnerships have enhanced the COVID-19 response in communities across the country and can strengthen health departments as we envision and build the public health workforce of the future. [Envisioning and Building the Public Health Workforce of the Future: The Critical Role of Partnerships](#) will be held virtually on October 25, 2021 from 2-3:30pm MDT.

More information about the AHD Learning Community and its activities is available through the [AHD Learning Community](#) section of the Council website or by contacting Kathleen Amos at kamos@phf.org.