



Academic Health Department Learning Community Report

March 31, 2022

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

The Learning Community continues to see sustained interest and engagement from the public health community. The Learning Community has more than 1,200 members, and the Learning Community and its resources and tools have been accessed nearly 4,000 times since the last [Council on Linkages Between Academia and Public Health Practice](#) (Council) meeting. Council staff also continue to regularly receive requests for assistance related to AHD partnerships, responding to 10 requests from 9 organizations in 8 states during that same time period.

Annual Meetings and Conferences

In October 2021, AHD partnerships were featured during sessions at both the [American Public Health Association \(APHA\) Annual Meeting](#) and [Region VII AHD Conference](#). The [APHA Annual Meeting session](#) focused 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. Council staff also participated in a closing panel discussion on sustainability and funding for partnerships during the Region VII AHD Conference, which offered three days of content on AHD partnerships.

AHD Webinars

The [AHD Webinar Series](#) continues to highlight AHD partnerships and other topics of interest for developing, sustaining, and expanding AHD partnerships. The latest webinar in this series was held in February 2022 and focused on [Envisioning and Building the Public Health Workforce of the Future: The Critical Role of Partnerships](#), building on the successful APHA Annual Meeting session. With guest speakers Judy Monroe, President and CEO, CDC Foundation; Paul C. Erwin, Dean, The University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Public Health; Antonia Blinn, Director, Performance Management & Quality Improvement, Massachusetts Department of Public Health; and Tali Schiller, Program Manager, Academic Public Health Corps, Massachusetts Health Officers Association, this webinar attracted 375 participants, making it the best-attended AHD webinar to date. The archive of the webinar is available on the [Council website](#).

AHD partnerships will also take center stage at an upcoming webinar hosted by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing: [Partnerships Between Academic Health Departments and Schools of Nursing](#). This webinar will be held on April 27, 2022 and will feature AHD partnerships that involve schools of nursing.

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.