

Annual Report

July 2015—June 2016



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Colleagues, partners, friends,

The past 18 months have been exciting for the Commonwealth Institute of Kentucky (CIK). Established in 2015 with a generous investment from KentuckyOne Health, CIK began to build its infrastructure and initiated several research projects almost immediately. We were fortunate to recognize considerable growth in 2015, including the hiring of our deputy director, four new faculty, as well as several additional research staff and graduate research assistants. CIK obtained recognition from the University of Louisville's Board of Trustees in January 2016. Through the work of our inaugural executive committee, we have established guiding principles, goals, and an organizational structure that is strongly aligned with CIK's mission.

Our ability to inform policy and practice depends to a great extent on our effectiveness in engaging researchers, stakeholders, and the community at large. During the past year we have been cultivating relationships with researchers from multiple disciplines and organizations across diverse sectors. These relationships enhance our capacity to link urban and public health researchers and collaborate with partners across the Commonwealth. In addition to our strategic partnership with KentuckyOne, CIK currently collaborates with the UofL Schools of Medicine, Nursing, Business, and Arts & Sciences, the Kent School of Social Work, and the Department of Justice Administration, Department of Urban and Public Affairs, and the Kentucky State Data Center. Within Louisville Metro Government, we work with the Center for Health Equity, Department of Public Health and Wellness (LMPHW), Office of Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods (OSHN), and the Police Department (LMPD). Other state and local partners include the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Kentucky Center for Education & Workforce Statistics, Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS), and many community-based, civic, and faith organizations.



Highlights from 2015-2016

- ◆ Secured over \$10 million in funding for CIK infrastructure, research capacity building, and data warehousing
- ◆ Engaged in community-based research, health policy support, and education
- ◆ Hired four new faculty members, four new staff, and eight graduate students
- ◆ Inducted 20 Commonwealth Scholars from across the university
- ◆ Adopted CIK bylaws and established processes for dealing with grant management, communication, and administration

We are proud of these accomplishments and eager to advance and pursue new opportunities in the coming year!



Monica L. Wendel, DrPH, MPH

Director, Commonwealth Institute of Kentucky
Associate Dean for Public Health Practice
School of Public Health and Information Sciences | University of Louisville

KentuckyOne has made it a priority to transform the health of the communities we serve with a special focus on vulnerable populations. Investing in the Commonwealth Institute of Kentucky amplifies this commitment and takes us to a new level of sophistication in addressing health disparities through collaboration.

Stephanie Mayfield Gibson, MD,
Vice President of Population Health, KentuckyOne Health

ANNUAL REPORT CONTENTS

- ◆ Letter from the Director
- ◆ The Year in Numbers
- ◆ CIK Initiatives
- ◆ Looking Forward
- ◆ People

MISSION

The mission of the Commonwealth Institute of Kentucky is *to inform policy and practice that will improve the health of populations in Kentucky and beyond by facilitating and supporting transdisciplinary collaborations for research and data analytics.*

THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

CIK had 16 funded projects with a total of \$3,712,040 in annual funding.

PROJECT	FUNDER	TERM	PI/LEAD	ANNUAL FUNDING
CIK Infrastructure	KentuckyOne Health	2015–2018	Wendel	\$1,469,985
Adolescent Diversion Program	KentuckyOne Health	2015–2018	Ingram/Kerr	\$147,840
Health Care Access and Utilization	KentuckyOne Health	2015–2018	Wendel/Buchino	\$132,305
West Louisville Health Literacy Project	KentuckyOne Health	2015–2018	Wendel/Combs	\$100,000
Workforce Capacity and Data Standardization	KentuckyOne Health / State University Partnership	2015–2018	Wendel/Buchino	\$501,728
Texas 1115(a) Medicaid Waiver Evaluation	Texas Health and Human Services Commission	2014–2017	Wendel/Creel	\$44,712
State Innovation Model (SIM) Consumer Engagement	Kentucky Voices for Health	2015	Wendel/Buchino	\$39,567
Youth Violence Prevention Research Center	CDC National Center for Injury Prevention & Control	2015–2020	Wendel/Ingram	\$988,140
Bootcamp Translation Health Literacy	Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence	2015–2017	Combs	\$105,000
LGBTQ Health Equity and Access	Kentucky Voices for Health	2015	Combs/Jones	\$25,000
Arise to Safety Evaluation	Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence	2015–2017	Wendel/Ingram	\$12,000
Pivot to Peace Evaluation	KentuckyOne Health Master Agreement	2016–2017	Wendel/Jackson	\$37,290
Early Health Detection and Intervention Program Evaluation	Cabinet for Health and Family Services	2016–2018	Creel	\$30,974
CHI Mission & Ministry	KentuckyOne Health	2015–2017	Buchino	\$15,000
ACA Outreach and Enrollment	Family Health Centers/ Robert Woods Johnson Foundation	2016	Creel/Buchino	\$17,500
Mountain States Genetics Regional Collaborative Evaluation	Mountain States Genetics Regional Collaborative	2016–2017	Creel	\$45,000

We know social and economic disadvantages, as well as poor health, exist disproportionately among racial minorities and those in poverty.

Where a person lives is a predictor of life expectancy – and the lowest life expectancies are in neighborhoods with the highest levels of poverty. Enhancing the lives of all Kentuckians is our mission, and we are doing just that through the Office of Public Health Practice efforts.

Craig Blakely, Dean, SPHIS



Left to Right: Dr. Craig Blakely, Dr. Brandy Kelly Pryor, Billie Castle, MPH, Monique Ingram, MPH, Trinidad Jackson, MS, MPH, Dr. Monica Wendel

OFFICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE MOVED TO WEST LOUISVILLE

In August 2015, the Old Walnut Street development at 1300 W. Muhammad Ali Blvd. became the new home to several Office of Public Health Practice (OPHP) staff members who work with residents and community groups to advance social justice, reduce health disparities and build capacity for improved health through the integration of practice, research and teaching. A move from the School of Public Health and Information Sciences building on UofL's Health Sciences Center to West Louisville has led to stronger relationships with local residents.

The office serves as a resource for communities seeking to address issues that impact health status and for UofL faculty, staff, and students to help cultivate and manage opportunities for the practice of community health development and community based participatory research.

Under the leadership of Dr. Monica Wendel, OPHP is working with the community to set priorities, and several initiatives are currently underway.

The **West Louisville Photovoice Project** aims to increase local understanding of experiences and perspectives of West Louisville residents and those who work in organizations that provide services in West Louisville. Engaging individuals from community sectors including activists, youth, faith leaders, educators, single mothers, black men, older adults, LGBT, police officers, business owners, and social service providers in taking pictures, the study facilitates collective dialogues about the topics of justice/injustice, safety/unsafety, hope/hopelessness, and racial equity/racism in West Louisville. Findings of this study will help inform the city's violence prevention strategy.

Lead: Trinidad Jackson, MS, MPH

Led by Louisville Cities United Collaborative, **Zones of Hope** seeks to eliminate violence-related deaths of African American boys and men by facilitating connections to education, employment, and life skills development opportunities within West Louisville. OPHP is part of the strategy development and implementation team also responsible for measuring and building community capacity, evaluating the initiative, and providing technical assistance to the leadership team.

Lead: Monique Ingram, MPH

YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION RESEARCH CENTER ESTABLISHED AT SPHIS



Left to Right: Vanderbilt University faculty, Dr. Paul Speer and Dr. Maury Nation, and Dr. Monica Wendel

Many West Louisville youth experience and are affected by violence. In hopes of addressing this tragic community issue, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention awarded the UofL School of Public Health and the University of Louisville School of Public Health and Information Sciences (SPHIS) \$5.7 million to establish a Youth Violence Prevention Research Center (YVPRC). The YVPRC is led by Monica Wendel, Dr.P.H., M.A. and Maury Nation, Ph.D., associate professor, Vanderbilt University Peabody College of Education and Human Development. Researchers and their partners will develop, implement and evaluate a community-level mass and social media campaign to change social norms - unwritten, shared mores, rules and customs that affect behavior. The initiative is aimed at reducing violence among youth living in West Louisville. East Nashville, Tennessee is serving as the control site for the project.

With this award, the CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control has recognized UofL as one of only seven national Centers of Excellence in Youth Violence Prevention. UofL joins the ranks of Johns Hopkins, University of Chicago, University of Colorado, University of Michigan, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and Virginia Commonwealth University in establishing centers aimed at curbing youth violence

The YVPRC has already recruited six young people ages 16-24 known as the Louisville Youth Voices against Violence (LYVV) Scholars. They work part-time with project personnel and are assisting with campaign development and testing. Eventually, the YVPRC plans to replicate the social norming campaign in other communities.

Community partners include: IDEAS xlab, Renaissance Creative Group, KentuckyOne Health, JCPS, and LMPHW, OSHN, and LMPD. In addition, once the campaign is developed, multiple organizations have committed to serve as implementation partners, including the Interdenominational Ministerial Coalition, KentuckianaWorks Youth Career Center, Kentucky YMCA Youth Services, Louisville Central Community Centers, Louisville Urban League, Louisville Metro Juvenile Detention Services, the Muhammad Ali Center, the Muhammad Ali Institute for Peace and Justice, PEACE Education Program, Restorative Justice, the Center for Women & Families, and the YMCA of Greater Louisville.

Lead: Monique Ingram, MPH



Too many young people see violence as the only way to resolve issues, and we've got to find a way to turn that around.

We've got to show our young people another way. I'm excited about this effort to get out in front of the issues challenging so many in our community.

**Greg Fischer, Mayor
Louisville Metro**

The **Adolescent Diversion Project (ADP)** is a strengths-based, university-led program that diverts arrested youth from formal processing in the juvenile justice system and provides them with community-based services.

Based on a combination of theoretical perspectives, the goal of the ADP is to prevent future delinquency by strengthening youth attachment to family and other prosocial individuals, increasing youth access to resources in the community, and keeping youth from potentially stigmatizing social contexts such as the juvenile justice system.

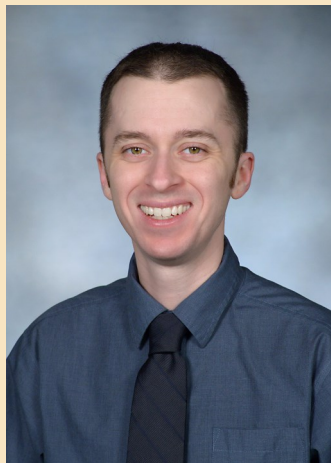
This program has proven successful in Michigan and Texas. CIK is piloting the program in collaboration with local stakeholders including the Offices of the County Attorney and Public Defenders.

Leads: Monique Ingram, MPH & Jelani Kerr, PhD, MSPH

The **West Louisville Health Literacy Project** examines the development, use, applicability, and design of health insurance, health systems, and health behavior literacy materials to residents of West Louisville.

In partnership with the Louisville Metro Department of Health and Wellness, CIK is in the process of developing and piloting creative new health literacy interventions in the California, Russell, Parkland, and Shawnee neighborhoods of West Louisville. Related activities and interventions will be developed through academic-community partnership projects designed to teach newly insured residents how to use the health care delivery system.

The goal of this initiative is to assist West Louisville residents with navigating the health care system and utilizing health coverage, as well as improving health literacy related to health behavior.



Lead: Ryan Combs, PhD, MA



Workforce Capacity and Data Standardization

Throughout fiscal year 2016, CIK has partnered with the Commonwealth of Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services and the Kentucky Center for Education and Workforce Statistics (KCEWS) to address health care workforce capacity data inadequacies. This project was able to leverage designated KentuckyOne funding to request a federal match through a State-University Partnership.

CIK has developed relationships with independent professional licensure boards to facilitate the integration of licensure board data into the Kentucky Longitudinal Data Set, which is housed at KCEWS and includes education and workforce data for the state. This integrated data set can provide information about geographic, educational, and salary trends in various professions to inform policies and planning for an adequate and competent workforce.

CIK also has developed a core data set for Kentucky, which can be used by licensure boards to promote a more comprehensive and accurate picture of medical service providers. As this project continues into the upcoming fiscal year, CIK will analyze the available data for current health workforce capacity, health care demands, and gaps within the system.

Lead: Susan Buchino, PhD, OTR/L

The world is a dangerous place to live; not because of the people who are evil, but because of the people who don't do anything about it.

Albert Einstein

LGBTQ Health Equity & Access

Following implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), Kentucky Voices for Health (KVH) sought to discover the experiences of Kentucky's lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) communities when signing up for health insurance and using health care. KVH asked researchers from the CIK to conduct a qualitative study with LGBTQ communities from across the state from October to December 2015.

The research found that LGBT people experienced issues such as low health insurance literacy, difficulty navigating bureaucracy, frustrations with technology, and concerns about cost. Unique difficulties, however, included systemic barriers such as transgender health exclusions in insurance policies and billing errors due to gender marker mismatches. Participants in the study also discussed poor treatment by office staff and health care providers, which eroded their trust in the health care system.

Specific recommendations of this study included increasing the cultural competency and inclusivity of health services, enhancing policies and regulations that support access to care of LGBTQ populations, and creating specific resources for advocacy and meeting the unique needs of LGBTQ populations.

Lead: Alden Jones, M.Ed.

State Innovation Model Consumer Engagement

The CIK was contracted by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services to assess Kentuckians' current health-related needs and to make recommendations for engaging consumers and their advocates in the SIM Testing Grant. SIM is a \$2 million State Innovation Model (SIM) design grant from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services that focuses on addressing population health improvement through planning and designing of new payment and service delivery models.

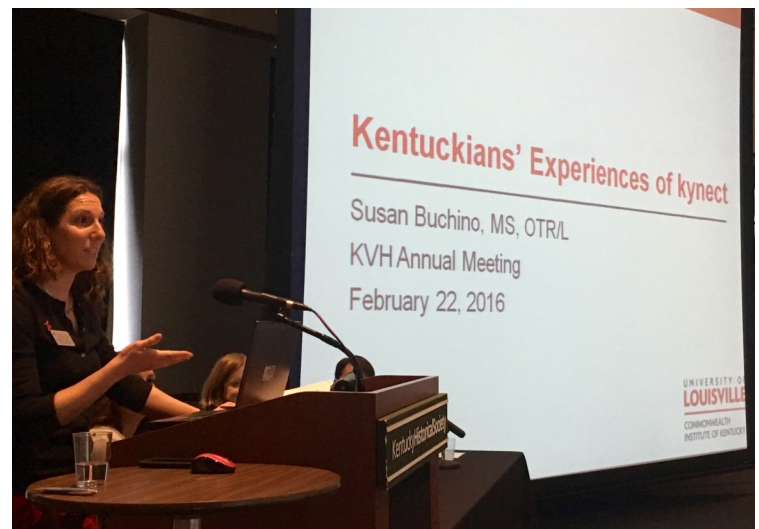
To that end, the CIK team collected and analyzed feedback from Kentuckians regarding their experiences as health care consumers in terms of cost, access, and quality. Key findings of the study are in line with national surveys and existing literatures, and point to improved access to care with the implementation of Medicaid expansion and Kynect. Specific concerns in terms of access to care included occasional difficulty finding providers that accept certain insurance plans, and the availability of behavioral and oral health care providers.

While Kentucky insurance has increased, the study revealed that consumers expressed satisfaction in regards to their ability to utilize services that were not available before because of cost reductions. At the same time, the study revealed consumer concerns and frustration in terms of communication and amount of time spent with providers, and an overall confusion about navigating the health care system. Findings of this study were integrated into the full State Health System Innovation Plan.

Lead: Susan Buchino, PhD, OTR/L

The fact that discrimination exists doesn't make us all guilty. But the fact that discrimination persists might. If we are too comfortable with the way things are, too uncomfortable to truthfully look at what is happening and talk about it and change it, we are complicit in it.

Dr. Monica Wendel, Director, CIK



Dr. Susan Buchino presenting at the KVH Conference.

FUNDED EVALUATION PROJECTS

Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program Evaluation

The Early Health Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Program of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services' Commission for Children with Special Health Care Needs is charged with implementation of universal newborn hearing screening in Kentucky. The EHDI Program has partnered with Liza M. Creel, PhD, MPH, to evaluate implementation trends from 2011 to present, focusing specifically on monitoring incidence of hearing loss among Kentucky infants and children, incidence of risk factors for hearing loss, rates of follow-up for diagnostic testing, and factors associated with improved follow-up. The results of this work will inform ongoing needs assessment activities, and align with ongoing quality improvement efforts at the state and national levels. This work is collaborative, engaging researchers from the University of Kentucky and in consultation with the Kentucky EHDI Advisory Board.



Liza Creel, PhD, MPH

Mountain States Genetics Regional Collaborative Evaluation

Dr. Liza M. Creel was hired in June 2016 as the Evaluator for the Mountain States Genetics Regional Collaborative (MSGRC), one of seven HRSA-funded regional collaboratives. The MSGRC covers an eight state region that includes Arizona, Colorado, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, Utah and Wyoming, and has a mission to ensure that individuals with heritable disorders and their families have access to quality care and appropriate genetic expertise and information in the context of a medical home. The MSGRC facilitates regional collaboration, encourages involvement of diverse populations, and supports innovative mini-projects that inform quality improvement and systems change in the newborn screening and clinical genetics health care delivery systems. Joe Benitez, PhD, also participates in the MSGRC evaluation.

Texas 1115(a) Medicaid Waiver Evaluation

Drs. Monica Wendel and Liza M. Creel continued their work on the Texas 1115(a) Medicaid Waiver Evaluation. Section 1115 demonstration waivers enable states to test program designs that depart from existing federal rules while remaining consistent with the overall goals of the Medicaid program. Texas's 1115(a) Medicaid Waiver directed anticipated savings from Medicaid managed care expansion to create the Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) pool for projects designed to improve health care quality and health and contain costs. Drs. Wendel and Creel are leading the Interorganizational Network Study, designed to measure changes in organizational collaboration since implementation of the Waiver. They have also completed a survey on Waiver stakeholders, identifying key strengths, challenges, and opportunities of the Waiver.

The complex health issues facing our communities such as poverty and preventable health disparities, require individual scholars to recognize the valuable knowledge and methods of other disciplines. We are convening researchers from across the globe with wide-ranging expertise to improve population health and affect health policy.

Craig Blakely, Dean, SPHIS



PIVOT TO PEACE

Introduced by the Louisville Metro Government in collaboration with KentuckyOne Health, UofL Hospital, and the UofL's Kent School of Social Work, **Pivot to Peace** is a hospital-based program aimed at preventing young adult violence, and improving community capacity to address all forms of violence. CIK researchers assessed the impact of this program at both the participant and population levels by tracking changes in the incidence of violent interactions; physical/mental status; community connections; the number of young adult offenders and re-offenders; the number of agency policies or procedures changed, improved, rescinded, or added; the number of stakeholders involved in violence prevention; and the change in leveraged resources in violence prevention initiatives.

Lead: Trinidad Jackson, MS, MPH

HEALTH CARE ACCESS AND UTILIZATION STUDIES

CIK researchers are working on a number of studies investigating health care access and utilization in Louisville and Kentucky following the implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and Medicaid expansion.

- ◆ This spring, Drs. Benitez, Creel, and Jennings published the article “Kentucky’s Medicaid Expansion Showing Early Promise on Coverage and Access to Care” in *Health Affairs*. Their analysis of data from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) confirmed that in the first year of Medicaid expansion, both the number of uninsured and the number of people with unmet medical needs due to cost sharply decreased among Kentucky’s low-income populations.
- ◆ Drs. Jennings and Creel initiated a study exploring changes in hospital delivery of health promotion services since the Community Health Needs Assessment requirement of ACA went into effect. Preliminary results were presented at the 2016 Academy Health Annual Research Meeting, and this work will inform other planned research on hospital community orientation.
- ◆ In a mixed methods study, Dr. Buchino found that despite the addition of the Medicaid expansion population, the use of mental health services has not increased in West Louisville. Her study also revealed that residents of West Louisville neighborhoods still face numerous barriers to using health services.



- ◆ Drs. Creel and Buchino are analyzing quantitative and qualitative data to understand Louisville’s remaining uninsured population and their use of the health care system. They have also examined the evolution of outreach strategies and enrollment activities by Louisville kynectors and enrollment specialists.

ARISE TO SAFETY

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) is redefining health and health care. Addressing Kentucky’s health issues in this climate requires a multi-level approach, and that is what we plan to accomplish through research, education and policy advocacy.

Craig Blakely, Dean, SPHS

Arise to Safety is a project initiated by KentuckyOne Health in partnership with the Center for Women and Families and the Mary Byron Project. This project tests a standardized screening protocol and intervention to identify those at the highest risk of being seriously injured or killed by their intimate partner and to immediately connect them with emergency shelter, transportation and case management from the Center for Women and Families. The evaluation team from CIK is providing interim evaluation findings to program leadership that will contribute to continuous quality improvement.

Leads: Monique Ingram, MPH & Trinidad Jackson, MS, MPH

COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARS

Bringing together the expertise of researchers from multiple disciplines, the CIK is broadening its capacity to address health disparities across the state and beyond.

The following individuals were named Commonwealth Scholars in FY 2016:

Joseph Benitez, Ph.D., assistant professor, Dept. of Health Management & Systems Sciences, SPHIS

Craig Blakely, Ph.D., M.P.H., dean, SPHIS

Susan Buchino, Ph.D., OTR/L, senior research manager, SPHIS

Ryan Combs, Ph.D., M.A., assistant professor, Dept. of Health Promotion & Behavioral Sciences, SPHIS

Liza M. Creel, Ph.D., M.P.H., assistant professor, Dept. of Health Management & Systems Sciences, SPHIS

Robert Esterhay, M.D., associate professor, Dept. of Health Management & Systems Sciences, SPHIS

José Fernandez, Ph.D., associate professor, Dept. of Economics, College of Business

Jeremy Gaskins, Ph.D., assistant professor, Dept. of Bioinformatics & Biostatistics, SPHIS

Diane Harper, M.D., M.P.H., M.S., professor and chair, Dept. of Family and Geriatric Medicine, School of Medicine

J'Aime Jennings, Ph.D., M.P.A., assistant professor, Dept. of Health Management & Systems Sciences, SPHIS

Christopher Johnson, Ph.D., professor and chair, Dept. of Health Management & Systems Sciences, SPHIS

Brandy Kelly Pryor, Ph.D., director, Center for Health Equity, LMPHW; assistant professor, Dept. of Health Promotion & Behavioral Sciences, SPHIS

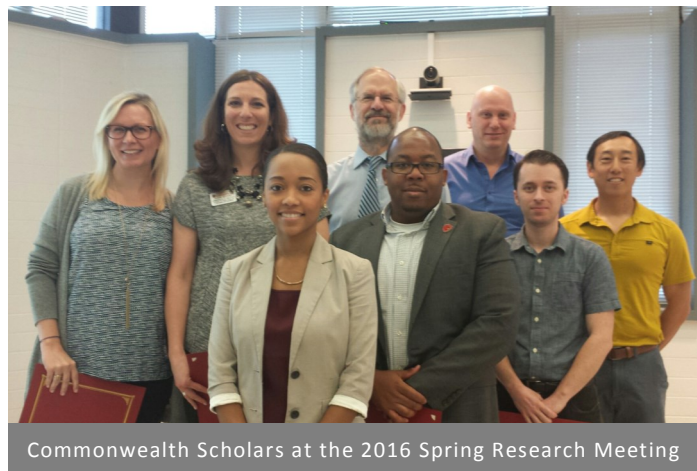
Jelani Kerr, Ph.D., M.S.P.H., assistant professor, Dept. of Health Promotion & Behavioral Sciences, SPHIS

Bert Little, Ph.D., professor, Department of Health Management & Systems Sciences, SPHIS

Gilbert Liu, M.D., professor and Director of General Pediatrics, Dept. of Pediatrics, School of Medicine

W. Paul McKinney, M.D., associate dean for research; professor, Dept. of Health Promotion & Behavioral Sciences, SPHIS

Elizabeth Munnich, Ph.D., assistant professor, Dept. of Economics, College of Business



Matthew Ruther, Ph.D., director of the Kentucky State Data Center; assistant professor, Dept. of Urban & Public Affairs, College of Arts & Sciences

Joann Schulte, D.O., M.P.H., associate professor, Dept. of Epidemiology and Population Health, SPHIS

Monica L. Wendel, Dr.P.H., M.A., associate dean for public health practice; associate professor, Dept. of Health Promotion & Behavioral Sciences, SPHIS

THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

- ◆ 20 Commonwealth Scholars
- ◆ 27 grant proposals submitted
- ◆ 15 proposals were funded
- ◆ 13 projects are in progress
- ◆ 16 presentations related to CIK projects
- ◆ 2 projects were completed
- ◆ 4 UofL schools represented
- ◆ 7 UofL departments represented

MEET THE CIK STAFF



Sherry Duffy
Deputy Director



Susan Buchino, PhD, OTR/L
Senior Research Manager



Noémi Stanev
Senior Program Coordinator

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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