

Alexis Gatson Heaston

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Current Position Assistant Professor
Public Health, Health Administration, Health
Sciences Tennessee State University

Education

Ed.D. Tennessee State University	Major: Educational Leadership Doctoral Advisor: Dr. Eleni Elder Dissertation Title: “How does participating in a peer health education program impact health behaviors among African American college students”?
MAT Austin Peay State University	Major: Teaching
Ed.S. Tennessee State University	Major: Instructional Leadership
M.S. Austin Peay State University	Major: Public and Community Health “Knowledge of cervical cancer among African American and Caucasian women”
B.S. Austin Peay State University	Major: Political Science Minor: Biology

Professional Experience

Tennessee State University, Nashville, TN

Assistant Professor 2019-present

Department of Public Health, Health Administration & Health Sciences

Provides instruction for graduate and undergraduate healthcare and administration health sciences courses.

(**undergraduate level:** Intro to Healthcare Organizations, Intro to Public Health, Sociology of Health and Healing, Healthcare Management, Consumer Health, Critical Issues of Healthcare, Complementary and Alternative Approaches to Healthcare, and Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, **graduate level** Public Health Ethics, Public Health Field Placement) Nutrition-**Department of Health Performance and Sports Sciences**)

Department of Public Health, Health Administration, and Health Sciences Assessment Coordinator

- Disseminates and implement the university’s plan to measure student learning outcomes and program effectiveness.
- Gathers relevant data on student performance and analyze this information to identify trends and areas for improvement.
- Reports assessment findings to departmental faculty, the department chair, and office of institutional effectiveness, research, planning, and assessment
- Facilitates improvement plans with faculty to use assessment results to enhance curriculum, teaching methods, and overall program quality.

- Ensures compliance for assessment and quality assurance.
- Provides guidance and resources to faculty members on assessment techniques and best practices.
- Utilizes assessment-related software and tools used by the university

▪ **Council on Education for Public Health CEPH Accreditation Co-Chair**

Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) Faculty Liaison 2021-present

- Work closely with CADENCE Staff and Steering committee to ensure the successful implementation of the Quality Enhancement Plan.
- Assists in the promotion and coordination of professional development and cross-training opportunities for faculty and staff.
- Leads professional development and training opportunities in partnership with CADENCE staff.
- Supports the collection and dissemination of data related to the assessment and continuous improvement of CADENCE implementation plan.

Adjunct Professor 2017-2019

Department of Public Health, Health Administration & Health Sciences
Department of Learning and Civic Engagement

- Provides instruction for (UNIV 1000) Service to Leadership course

Tennessee State University, Nashville, TN

Master of Public Health Program Manager 2016-2019

- Provided leadership in the overall logistical plans necessary to successfully execute needs to the program
- Recruited potential graduate students to the Master of Public Health Program
- Created and analyzed statistical data for program and CEPH accreditation standards and retention initiatives
- Continuously compiled, reviewed, and analyzed program outcomes against the established goals, objectives, and timelines
- Recommended and implemented improvements to the MPH program development
- Advised Health Sciences and Healthcare Administration undergraduate and graduate students
- Implemented retention and student tracking activities;
- Actively participated in identifying grants
- Responsible for SACS Compliance Credentialing for the Department
- Served on the PhD proposal committee and assists with PhD proposal development
- Served on the Department of Public Health, Health Administration and Health Sciences Advisory board

Robertson County Schools, Springfield, TN

Social Science Teacher (History/Geography and Government) 2015-2016

- Planned, prepared and delivered instructional activities that facilitate active learning experiences
- Established and communicated clear objectives for all learning activities
- Instructed and monitored students in the use of learning materials and equipment
- Used relevant technology to support instruction
- Observed and evaluated student's performance and development

Other contributions: Served on school's data team; served on school's accreditation data team, and taught an ACT Prep/College Readiness Course

Tennessee State University, Nashville, TN

Associate Director of Admissions and Campus Events 2014-2015

- Responsible for coordinating, and managing the timely processing of admissions applications and the daily related office operations in the Office of Admissions
- Responsible for coordinating all requests for campus visits as well as the interviewing and hiring of new Student Tour Ambassadors; coordinating and overseeing the initial and on-going training of the Student Tour Ambassadors
- Directly responsible for supervising, training, and evaluating the admissions processing staff
- Responsible for managing the communications plan for prospective undergraduate students through the University's CRM (Hobsons), and drafting and sending all email and postal mail communications to prospective students
- Responsible for assisting the Director of Admissions in the coordination and development of targeted communication pieces such as view-books, postcards, posters, website, emails, etc.

Responsible for assisting with the University's recruitment efforts as needed

Tennessee State University, Nashville, TN

Admissions Counselor/Coordinator of Campus Tours and Admissions Events 2011-2014

Austin Peay State University, Clarksville TN

2008-2011 Admissions Counselor

- **Accomplishments:** Recruited students from the West TN area with an applicant increase of 15 percent for an academic school year

Publications

- Heaston, A.G. (2022). The CTLI Experience: Fostering Learning & Relationships To Support Student Success. State Collaborative on Reforming Education. <https://tnscore.org/the-ctli-experience-fostering-learning-relationships-to-support-student-success/>
- Brown NR, Alick CL, Heaston AG, Monestime S, Powe N. (2022). The Black Church and Public Health: A Key Partnership for Theory Driven COVID-19 Recovery Efforts. *Journal of Primary Care & Community Health*. doi:10.1177/21501319221097672
- Heaston, A. (2020, April 21). Obesity and cigarette smoking among young adults. [paper presentation]. Programs to Increase Diversity Among Individuals Engaged in Health-Related Research (PRIDE) Annual Meeting, Virtual (COVID)
- Brown, E., Brown, C., Johnson, O., Inman, W., Burrell, W., Briggs, R., **Heaston, A.** (2019). Using community-based participatory research to assess the needs of HIV-related services for individuals infected with HIV/AIDS in rural communities. *Journal of Community Engagement and Scholarship*, 12(1), 10-16
- Patel, K., Gishe, J. Liu, J., **Heaston, A.** Manis, E., Moharrerri, B., Hargreaves, M0 (2019). Factors influencing recommended cancer screening in low-income African American Women in Tennessee. *Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities*,
- Inman, W., Theriot, R., Briggs, R., & **Heaston, A.** (2019). Hormone Replacement Therapy: The Plight of Aging Women in Arab Nations. *J Pub Health Issue Pract* 3(2):151.
- Inman, W., Briggs, R., **Heaston, A.**, Theriot, R., (2017). Training Future Health Care Professionals to Work in Teams: The Need for Interdisciplinary Professional Education. *Journal of the National Society of Allied Health*, 13(1)

Book Chapters and Book Contributions

- Inman W., **Heaston, A.**, Briggs R., Theriot R. (2020) Hormone Replacement Therapy. In: Laher I. (eds) Handbook of Healthcare in the Arab World. Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-74365-3_8-1

Presentations

- Heaston, A.G. (2024, May 20). *Understanding Social Determinants of Health*. Leadership Tennessee Next May Convening. Nashville, TN
- Heaston, A.G.. (2024, May 3-4) *Expanding God's Call to Service: Chaplaincy and Health*. Power of the Wholistic Church. Atlanta, GA
- Heaston, A. G. (2024, April 13). Integrating health programs in church programs for ministers. [oral presentation]. 13th District Tennessee Conference Board of Examiners. Murfreesboro, TN
- Heaston, A.G. (2024, February, 8). *Preparing Professional People: From College Life to Career Success*. Networking Black Professionals Luncheon. Clarksville, TN
- Heaston, A.G., Norfleet, J. (2020). Virtual Worship in a Pandemic. Tennessee Conference Lay

Organization, Clarksville, TN.

Brown, C., **Heaston, A.**, Daniels, B. (2018). Screening for depression, anxiety, and substance abuse among college students in Tennessee. Tennessee Public Health Association, Franklin, TN.

Heaston, A. (2018). What is worship. African Methodist Episcopal Church North District Tennessee Annual Conference Planning Meeting, Clarksville, TN.

Heaston, M, Heaston, A. (2016). Self-worth. Presented at the PUSH Conference in Covington, TN.

Heaston, A. (2015). The Role of Alumni Ambassadors. Tennessee Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers Annual Meeting, Nashville, TN

Grants

Maternal Mortality Action Project: Mitigation Action for Maternal Mortality (RFA) 34347- 74321- (with St. Thomas Health Foundation, Dr. Connie Graves (St. Thomas Ascencion, Dr. Patricia Scott, St. Thomas Ascencion)

State of TN Health Department

Grant Contract Number: 39069

\$20,000

01/01/21 – 09/29/21

The MAMM project will educate women, providers, and the community at large within about the risk factors for Cardiovascular Disease through educational activities, Public Service Announcements, and focus groups. According to the American Heart Association Go Red For Women, only 1 in 5 African American women believes she is personally at risk for heart disease. Only 52 percent of African American women are aware of the signs and symptoms of a heart attack and only 36 percent of African American women know that heart disease is their greatest health risk. Education about risk factors through events and Public Service Announcements can contribute to the reduction of CVD-related morbidity and mortality rates for African American women.

Obesity Health Disparities PRIDE Program Small Research Project Grant Award: Obesity, Depressive Symptoms, and Risky Health Behaviors among Young Adults”.

Supported by a grant from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood

Institute to the University of Mississippi Medical Center (Grant #2R25HL126145 – MPIs Beech and Norris)

\$10,000

2019-2020

Few studies have examined the relation between obesity and cigarette smoking among young adults. We sought to determine whether obesity is associated with cigarette smoking in a national sample of young adults ages 18-24.

Teaching Interests

Health and Education and Health Promotion

Public Health

Educational Leadership

Teaching Diverse Students

Research in Education

School and Community Relations

Research Interests

Spirituality and Health

Educational leadership

Health education
Cultural competence in education
Health disparities

Committees

Public Health Program Director Search Committee Chair
COHS Policy and Procedure Committee, 2022-present
University Curriculum Committee, 2020-2022
University Student Appeals Committee, 2022-present
HLSC Academic Audit, 2020
Master of Public Health Program CEPH Self Study, 2019-present
Bachelor of Science in Public Health program modification
PhD Public Health Proposal, 2018- present
Bank of America Advising Committee
University Advising Council
Department of Public Health, Health Administration and Health Sciences Assessment Coordinator
Prior Learning Assessment

Academic Honors and Other Awards

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated South Eastern Region, Glenda Glover
Leadership Institute
Leadership TN Next Fellow (2023)
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated South Eastern Region 40 under 40
Complete Tennessee Leadership Institute Fellow
Cohort 2021
National Institutes of Health, Community-Based participatory Research Partnership Academy Fellow
Cohort 2021
Higher Education Leadership Foundation Fellow 2021 (Mu/Lambda Cohort)
Fellow, NHLBI Obesity Health Disparities PRIDE Program, University Mississippi Medical Center,
Jackson, MS, 2019

Licensure and Certifications

Tennessee Teacher's Certificate; Secondary Education
Tennessee Teaching License: History and Government
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the Workplace Certificate

Professional Memberships

Post Grad Ready Advisory Group, 2024-present

National Academic Advising Association, 2021-present
TN Department of Health-Health Disparities Advisory Group
Tennessee Public Health Association, 2019-present
Tennessee Public Health Association, Academic Section Committee Member
American Public Health Association, 2019-present
Payne Theological Seminary, Wilberforce, Ohio Trustee

Community Service

American Public Health Association Abstract Reviewer
Montgomery County, TN Health Council, 2017-2020,
Austin Peay State University Board of Directors, 2020-present
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Nu Kappa Omega Chapter President 2022-present
Journal of Health Disparities Research and Practice Reviewer
TNAchieves Mentor, 2015-2020
African Methodist Episcopal Church, Connectional General Board Member
African Methodist Episcopal Church Tennessee Annual Conference-Christian Education Director 2021-Present
AMEC-Tennessee Annual Conference Lay Organization Director of Public Relations
2022-present
AMEC Payne Chapel AMEC Church School Superintendent, 2016 -present
AMEC-Payne Chapel AMEC-Board of Stewards 2016-present
AMEC-Payne Chapel AMEC-Commission on Public Relations
AMEC-Payne Chapel-AMEC Health Committee Member 2022-present