



## Healthcare Administration Newsletter

Department of Public Health  
College of Health and Human Services

**Shaping the Future 2025**, a Student Healthcare Association (SHA) event, was a huge success! Close to 100 people attended, including healthcare professionals, WKU staff, community leaders and students.



*"This event was such a special experience for me. Seeing so many students and professionals come together in one room, having meaningful conversations about the future of healthcare, reminded me why I'm so passionate about this field. I'm proud of what we accomplished, and I can't wait to see what's next for SHA and our members!"*

Hallie Cassidy, SHA President, MHA/HCA JUMP student (May 2026), Western Kentucky University



*"I am so proud of our SHA students for planning and hosting the "Shaping the Future 2025" event. It was a monumental occasion to have leaders from MedCenter, Greenview, and Graves Gilbert Clinic all on the same stage. It was truly inspiring to witness the collaborative spirit among the health care leaders as well as the attendees. I hope our students emulate this collaborative nature as they enter the workforce."*

Dr. Tania Basta, Dean, College of Health and Human Services, Western Kentucky University.

### Britton Rowe, Health Care Administration (HCA) Student Spotlight

*"Riding 3,600 miles across the country with Bike4ALZ Team 13 is more than just a ride—it's a mission to raise money and awareness for Alzheimer's Disease. As the Corporate Relations Chair, I'm focused on bringing companies together to support this important cause. A significant portion of the funds we raise goes to the University of Kentucky's Sanders-Brown Center on Aging, where groundbreaking research is taking place. This journey is personal to me—not just because of my passion for healthcare, but because it's a chance to make a real difference in the lives of those affected by Alzheimer's."*

To find out more about this coast to coast bike ride for a cure, to include team members, history, route and how to support, check out the website below: <https://www.bike4alz.org/>



**Are you a *Health Sciences* major?  
Or a *Health Care Administration* student?**

**JUMP Program...** Did you know you can earn up to 12 graduate course credits toward the completion of your Master of Health Administration graduate degree at WKU, for the cost of undergraduate tuition rates, WHILE you are still an undergraduate student in the Health Care Administration or Health Sciences programs??? *Well you can!*

**For more information, visit:**

<https://catalog.wku.edu/graduate/health-human-services/public-health/mha/#programadmissiontext> OR  
contact your designated program advisor or  
MHA Program Coordinator Dr. Ellis-Griffith at [Gregory.Ellis-Griffith@wku.edu](mailto:Gregory.Ellis-Griffith@wku.edu) today!

**Meet Mr. Ben Howard, Part-time HCA Faculty**

I came to WKU fall of 1982, I was introduced to the healthcare administration department in Spring 1983 and met two of the most influential people in my life; Dr. Wayne Higgins (R.I.P.) and Dr. Tom Nicholson. These two men set my academic and personal life on a totally different trajectory. To this day, 42 years later, I still draw strength from their influence and desire to help others.

Following graduation, I went right into the Master of Health Administration program. My preceptor for my master's thesis was Tom Nicholson; Dr Nicholson introduced me to Victor Frankl and his work with existentialism. Again, life changing. Dr Nicholson and I worked together tirelessly and produced my Master's Thesis <https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/theses/785/>. I will never forget the work and was forever transformed by it.



Following completion of my course work, I stayed in touch with both men; it was Dr. Wayne Higgins who recommended to me I teach a class part-time. That was fall of 1996. Entering my 29<sup>th</sup> year this semester, teaching class at WKU has enriched my life beyond words. The students I had and run into from time to time, and have seen their careers grow, has made all the difference in my life. I thank Dr Higgins most of all for his Socratic method of teaching that I have tried to master over the last 29 years (nowhere close to Dr Higgin's effectiveness).

My classes and my students are stabilizing forces in my life. To see that magical glint in that rare student's eye that they are truly engaged makes me happy to be alive! Hail to good old WKU and thank you to all my students for touching my soul, "The Spirit Makes the Master." I look forward to the next 29 years on the hill "wink...wink." I am the proud and loving father of three of my best friends - Jacob, Will and Luke. All three are WKU grads and all are FIJI brothers.

**Study Abroad in Zanzibar!**

**Date: December 27, 2025 – January 10, 2026**



**Subjects:** Public Health and related areas

**Program Cost:** \$3,495 + airfare

**Deadline to Apply:**

**Aug 1: *Apply Early & Save \$100,***

**Sept 15: *Regular Deadline***

**What's Included?**

3 Credit Hours

Group Flight (Required)

Airport Transfers in Zanzibar

Accommodations

2 Meals per Day

Group Excursions & Transport

Security Evacuation Protection

Medical Insurance

Program Director & Faculty on-site 24/7



For more information, contact Dr. William Mkanta at [William.Mkanta@wku.edu](mailto:William.Mkanta@wku.edu)

**Events**

**ACHE CONGRESS**

March 24-27

**ACHCA CONVENTION & EXPO**

April 7-10

**SHA Meeting**

April 15th, 5pm, DSU 2123

**KHA ANNUAL CONVENTION**

May 20-21

**NAB ANNUAL MEETING**

June 9-13

**AUPHA ANNUAL MEETING**

June 17-19

**THA ANNUAL MEETING**

September 18-19