Welcome to today's webinar, career opportunities in public health. Whether you are looking to change careers or advance your career in public health, we have a number of expert panelists to give you strategies and guides to advance your career in this field, so we are very excited about tonight's webinar.

So before we get started, what I would like to do is introduce our Career Services Center team. So there are five full-time Career Center staff members. We're all located in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Advancing to that slide, which I'm not seeing at the moment.

>> It's there, Lisa. It is probably a little delay. Then we can do the poll after.

>> Okay, terrific. So we have five, as I mentioned, full-time staff members in Minneapolis. Our associate director, Dina Bergren. And we have three full-time senior Career Services advisors. Nicolle Skalski, who is serving as our technical moderator on this program. And Angie Lira and Denise. So it's a fantastic team. I call them the Career Services Center dream team. We get a lot done. We are a small staff but we really maximize efforts to reach students. Our mission is to help students proactively manage their careers.

So that said, we are going to run a poll now. So what prompted you to join us today? What is your reason for joining this webinar? If you can type it in the questions box and we will read through your responses and share them with the audience and our panelists so we know your motivation for attending.

Okay.

So ... you can type your reason. So Christopher says I am about to graduate with an MPH. So he must be looking at various career options. Want to learn how to move forward after graduation. Terrific. Remember, career services is open to you to after you graduate. If you want help with a résumé or vita or interviewing strategies, remember, you know, to use our website, schedule appointments.

Looking for career options after graduation. Opportunities for advancing and utilizing public health education. Beginning a career in public health. Looking for advice. Someone is about to graduate. Congratulations. Looking for different opportunities. Curious about available
opportunities. Advance my career in public health. Looking -- a lot of people taking employment opportunities. Veronica is thinking of changing her major to public health.

One student is looking to graduate with a bachelor’s in public health and wondering what she should be doing next.

Great, okay. A lot of people about to graduate, a lot of people interested in career options. Camille says to learn how to get an administrator’s job managing an assisted living facility without experience in the field.

A wide range of questions. Terrific. Thank you.

And so now I’m going to introduce Nicolle Skalaski, who is the main organizer for the webinar, pictured on the bottom left. Nicole has over 15 years of combined experience working in higher education in the U.S. and Mexico. She has experience doing higher ed teaching, international education and career development. In her role as senior career services adviser with Walden, she delivers webinars, manages our optimal résumé system and provides holistic career advising for students in all programs. She has a bachelor’s in journalism, a master’s in management. Her areas of expertise are career branding, LinkedIn and CV résumé writing. We don’t know what we would do without her, if we didn’t have her to provide technical support for our webinars because she is good at handling technical ins and outs of our webinars. With that, I turn it over to Nicole to introduce our panelists.

>> Thank you very much, Lisa. I appreciate that.

We are very happy to have just a vibrant, sharing, robust panelist here.

First I’m very honored to introduce Dr. Michelle Burcin. She’s the program director of the MPH program here at Walden University. She received a bachelor’s of science in health education from the University of Cincinnati. Both her MPH and PhD in public health from the University of South Carolina. Dr. Burcin has numerous professional publications and delivered more than 100 presentations while remaining a leader in the American College Health Association. When not working, Dr. Burcin enjoys spending time with her husband and daughter and loves being outside. So welcome, Michelle, to the webinar.

And we also have three alumni joining us with their -- to share their unique insights and career paths.

First, we have Chukwuemeka Obi, who also goes by Clifford. Mr. Obi is executive director of Hopeful Steps Foundation, a nonprofit in Los Angeles. It caters to the developmentally disabled. He received a bachelor in economics and finance from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and his MPH of course from Walden University. He is currently completing a Ph.D. in public health with Walden with the emphasis in community health. Mr. Obi has extensive experience in the field of business and public health administration. He presently sits on the board of five international healthcare organizations and has given more than 50 professional presentations in the field of public health. He also conducts annual medical missions to various countries in Africa, with volunteer nurses and doctors. At his leisure time, if he has any left after that, it is very impressive, he enjoys spending time with his wife and four children. He loves printing and publishing books for other writers.

So thank you for joining us today, Clifford, it’s an honor to have you.

And we also have Marianna Prevatt. She is a training specialist and certified tumor registrar at the -- registrar at the Texas cancer registry. She is visiting us for the webinar from Austin, Texas. She received a bachelor’s in health care management from Rasmussen College and her MPH of course in public health from Walden University. And she is also, like Mr. Obi, working on her Ph.D. -- sorry, her doctoral study for doctor of public health program at Walden. In her free time she loves to spend time with family and friends and also enjoys reading and exercising.

So, welcome, Marianna, as well.

Last but definitely not least, we have also MPH alumnus and practicum preceptor, LaTonya Wilkerson, director of quality and compliance at AID, Atlanta. She received a bachelors in
community health from Georgia Southern and her MPH from Walden in 2010. She has worked at AID Atlanta for over 17 years, contributing to policy development, standards of care, evolving the quality management program, and creating performance management dashboards. Very impressive. When she is not working, LaTonya enjoys volunteering, playing tennis and honing her photography skills.

So these are very impressive introductions and we will hear each of their stories throughout the webinar.

Okay. And with that we’re going to review our objectives for today’s webinar.

We here in Career Services work with many public health students from all levels, backgrounds, bachelors, master’s and doctoral levels. Common questions in career services we get are what can I do with this degree, how can I get my foot in the door if I don’t have any related experience. What will I need to become successful. How can I make a career transition.

I know many of you mentioned that in our poll question. So hopefully we’ll be addressing most of those questions during the webinar.

So today we’ll be exploring public health career trends, options. Different job titles and settings. We’re going to of course listen to our alumni’s success stories. Gain strategies to market yourself for the practicum experience, and gain resources to build your experience and your professional network.

So before starting your career exploration, ask yourself three important questions.

So in the area of public health, what prompted you to pursue your degree in public health in the first place. Something must have prompted you. Is it a passion for helping others. Are you making a career transition or advancing. Is this a new stage in your life or is it your commitment to social change.

Number two. What skills and strengths do you bring to public health. Are a great communicator? A competent researcher? How do others perceive you? What experiences in your personal or professional life have brought you to this point in your career? So this question actually also helps you to address and identify all of your transferable skills. Everyone has transferable skills from previous work and life experiences.

So, definitely don't discount those.

And three, finally, what is your end goal with pursuing your degree. Where do you see yourself in the next two, five or ten years.

So on the Career Services, you will see this box at the bottom of the screen. If you would like to explore more about self-knowledge, we have a self-knowledge tab on the Career Services webinar.

And now I will hand it over to Dr. Burcin to discuss job trends and career path.

>> Sure, thank you. So I'm excited you all are on the call. The field of public health, you have chosen a good one, I guess is what I want to say.

First of all, obviously I'm biased because it is my professional home as well. But it is a growing field. It's a much needed field. There are many job opportunities, which we'll talk about.

And I think the really exciting part, it's a very diverse field as far as the types of jobs you can receive. So when we think of public health, all the statements that you see here, you know, it could mean epidemiology but it also could mean biostatistics, maternal and child health and you work for WIC, women, infants and children. It could be international or global. It could be specifically behavioral where you work one-on-one with individuals to, say, help quit smoking.

It can be more laboratory-driven. So science-driven. Looking at research protocols or new drugs coming on the market.

It could be more health services management, meaning you are working in a hospital, clinic-like setting. It's a field that opens many, many doors for you.

And so in listening to Lisa talk about why you joined, making career changes, looking to get into the field. I would say the hardest part is figuring out what you want to do, because there are so many
options.  
So I think we are ready to go to the next slide.  
So when we look at trends, and this is workforce trends, we know that the average age of folks -- and this is domestic, this would be very U.S.-centric data.  When we look at the average age of folks working specifically in a state public health workforce, so when we say that we are talking about like a state health department or the regional county health department, the average age is 46.  
And this statistic is several years old, so we are looking at an average age of over 50.  That means retirement isn't far.  It means that paring down in the workforce could be coming.  We know about 50% of the workforce will be retiring in the next couple of years.  That is great for you all, as well.  
Workforce -- so what I’m saying, you may say, oh 50, people will work until they are 60.  But what I see when I think of that, those individuals are not entry-level positions, right.  I mean, they have been in the field for a long time so they are in the management level, senior management level positions.  
So what that means is, in my eyes, it means that those entry-level positions that are captured now and in the next couple of years have room for growth.  There isn’t a glass ceiling at entry.  There's going to be mobility within employment because of the turnover that we are expecting with the baby boomers and just younger than the baby boomers coming out of the workforce.  
So when we break down that, we look at -- when we look at public health, about 19% or so are working in federal agencies.  So when we think of federal, that is U.S. again.  But we are thinking like Center for Disease Control.  Big entity.  
State, again that could be like a state health department.  
When I lived in South Carolina that would have been like we called it Department of Health and Environmental Control.  
Local agencies.  So that could be your local --  
[coughing]  
Excuse me.  Local health agencies.  Local health clinics.  That could be anything at the local level, meaning it is not necessarily tied up to a state or federal levels.  
Other settings.  That could be higher education.  That could be research.  It could be non-profit.  
Non-profit is a huge employer of public health individuals.  When we say non-profit, we are thinking of everything from American Red Cross, American Heart Association, lung association, diabetes association, Planned Parenthood Federation of America.  The list goes on and on.  Not to mention institutions of higher education.  
If we can go to the next slide.  
So when you are thinking about jobs and you’re thinking about what your function could be, here's a very short list.  
I could have made slide upon slide of functions that you would have as a public health practitioner.  
You know, working in the community.  Research.  These are also key phrases to think about when you are developing your résumé, developing your cover letter.  
Because these are, I don't want to say buzz words.  I feel like "buzz words" means they are going to come and go, and that's not what I mean by these words.  
These are key functions of public health professionals, things we are looking for you to have.  If you are a graduate of the MPH program, you have had a lot of this.  Getting it in classes.  You are taking classes on design implementing and evaluation, policy development class, talking about research.  You are taking a leadership class that has already talked about, you know, management.  That just has the word volunteer in front of it, but it still is people management.  
So you are getting this.  But being able to, as Nicole mentioned, able to verbalize skillsets is really important.  
Here are ways to do that, or phrases you will be looking for.  These are also functions you would see in a job description.
Usually when you are looking at a job description it will bullet out the day-to-day functions and these are the types of things you would see.

When we talk about work settings, I mentioned this a little earlier but I want to give you a more exhaustive list. The reason I do this is because I think sometimes in public health we get very tunnel visioned in thinking only about a state health department. Or, you know, the CDC. There are so many options above and beyond those two. Colleges, universities.

I can say as a public health professional I had one job that wasn’t in higher ed. And I haven’t always been on the academic side of higher ed. There’s a whole side of a traditional brick and mortar university that delivers programs and services to students, faculty and staff. I was doing direct public health education, but my target population was the college student. Fantastic, super fun job. But an entity or workplace that people forget about because we think of the federal hospital, health insurance. Insurance companies are huge. I know when I was pregnant with my daughter I was getting regular calls from the public health professional that worked for my health insurance. They were checking up to make sure that I was having prenatal care, and had I thought about breast feeding, did I pass my glucose test for gestational diabetes. They have a strong interest in public health at the insurance level.

So thinking about that. Managed care organizations. Ministries of health. American Public Health Association is a national organization many of us are members of. They have a team, right. A huge professional staff. That is a place of employment.

Private and public foundations. The Clinton Foundation is a huge public health employer. Huge. Especially global. Melinda and Bill Gates, the Gates Foundation. Huge also. The K-12 systems. Research and development organizations. Substance abuse centers. People think that only individuals that work or have degrees in counseling or medical-related degrees would be hired in substance abuse, and that is not the case at all. They are always looking for those prevention or public health folks. There has to be someone that does the outreach and community aspect of the agency.

Worksite health promotion or public health. This is big. We know that companies know that a healthy employee saves them money and time. And when I say money, it means they are on the job more often, taking less sick days, but also costs less in health insurance.

So really -- a really growing field and many job opportunities.

Next slide, please.

So this graph here is referring specifically to employment status upon entry to the MPH program. These are our students in the MPH program and when they first started what they were doing. And I put this up here for a couple of reasons. One, I know that when I talk with students they feel isolated. They feel they are doing this on their own and they are the only one employed full time and feel very isolated.

I'm wanting you to know that's not the case, that 64% of your colleagues in the MPH program work full time. Then another 6% work at least part time. Many are self-employed.

So the other reason I'm telling you this, is if you are employed somewhere at any level, you have marketable, transferable skills to a public health position. And so I often hear from students that say, for instance, I work at Target. I have never worked in a public health agency. I don't have job experience. I heard that a couple of times in the comments Lisa was saying.

And I would beg to differ. I would want to be your devil's advocate. I would say, no, that's not true. Working at Target you have fantastic people skills. You may be handling money which means you are fiscally responsible and trustworthy. There are many transferable skills that are needed in the public health field.
So, just thinking a little bit differently and presenting that on paper. I always -- I came from a brick and mortar setting. Only have been at Walden now full-time for five years.

I can say that because all of your communication with your faculty members -- I should not say all. A great majority of communication you have with faculty members is written. That is a skill set of yours. That is a differentiator compared to your colleagues that are not coming from a -- or coming maybe from a traditional. You have written communication to your benefit. So use that. Make that another thing that you mark on your résumé.

If I can get -- I think one more good slide. Okay.

So of the individuals that are employed, here's where folks are working in the public health field already.

Public administration. Healthcare. Human services. Social services. P-12. That is like pre-school through 12 system. Engineering and technology and business management. All of those entities have transferable skillsets that would help you make that transition into a public health position.

We often hear from students that say, yes, I work in public health. I work more as a maybe in an administrative assistant role or program assistant role. I want the program director, program manager role. You are a part of it. You are a part of the lingo. You see the day-to-day operations. You know how to get it done. You know what it means to be successful, and communicating that is the most important part.

I think ... yeah. I think that's it.

>> Thank you, Michelle. That was wonderful. And I’m glad Michelle mentioned -- she really reinforced those transferable skills.

So here at Career Services, I mean, we could do a whole webinar on that. But we are here to help you identify the transferable skills. How to articulate them on your résumé, your cover letter, when interviewing. And tell those stories.

Most of our speakers today will be talking about that. Many made a career transition. As you progress through Walden, you will want to consider, we will talk about how can you gain some experience before you graduate. How can you build your network.

One way to do that, you want to start thinking about your niche. What are you passionate about. How can you start defining your niche.

Many of you might have an idea of a health issue you are really passionate about or a population that you want to work with. Or a work setting or job function. Many that Michelle mentioned -- in fact, our presenters today are not in your typical fields. In the work settings, I would say. They are in the field of public health but not in the typical, you know, the department, county Department of Public Health, et cetera. So we are going to hear from our alumni panelists.

So ask yourself, what are you passionate about. What population. What environments might you want to work in. And what settings would allow you to pursue that passion.

One way to gain experience is through volunteering.

Here we are identifying a lot of the Walden Career Services resources that we have on our website. Idealist.org. Volunteer match. Service leader. These are all websites you can find on the Career Services website. We also have a webinar called: Maximizing career success through strategic volunteering. A phenomenal webinar.

So volunteering in your community is a great way to build your résumé, build your experience in those qualifications and also build your network. So feel free to reach out to and tap into the website resources.

And you want to be proactive, take initiative. Be proactive in your search. Again, we are about to hear from Mr. Obi how proactive he was in his search and the result he yielded from that.
You can use Google, of course. Dex Online. Come up with a list of organizations in your area that you are interested in.

Use LinkedIn to reach out. Research the mission and vision of your target organization. What clients or populations do they serve. What is the culture like.

So, many, many questions you can ask yourself. And answer, as well.

So now we're going to talk to Clifford Obi, who will share how he leveraged networking, volunteering and other proactive strategies to land both his practicum and move up in his current organization. Are you there, Clifford?

>> Yes, I'm right here.

>> Excellent.

>> Thank you so much.

>> Excellent. Oh, you're very welcome. So I know, Clifford, that you actually started out, before getting into public health, you started out in telecommunications.

>> Yes.

>> Can you tell us how you decided to move into public health and how you got interested in public health.

>> Okay. Thank you so much.

One thing I want to say first is, listening to Dr. Burcin, I was very impressed with the advice she gave regarding the skill set one can bring into public health.

>> Thank you.

>> Yes. I was in the telecom industry for so many years. I moved from there to AT&T and became one of the global account managers. Then retired from Telecom Italia before I thought about coming to public health.

One thing is, whenever you are going to have a career change, you have to find out about that career change. What you want to do with it.

As she rightfully stated, if you go out, what do you want to do.

In my own experience, before I got into the field of public health, I had to start from the bottom. I went in and became -- get a certification in chemical dependency counseling. From there I started volunteering, to participate in events in local public health agencies to find out what is going on in this industry. How are they helping people. What are their services all about.

That helped me to make a lot of connections within the Los Angeles county Department of Public Health, social services.

From there, while I was doing my MPH at Walden, I wanted to work for the department. Was very difficult. But I persisted. Going in, applying for my own [indiscernible]. Eventually some of the management remembered I was one of the people volunteering for things like TB screening or any time they had an outbreak, I would be out there volunteering.

It gave me opportunity.

I did follow-up over there before I join the organization where I finished the practicum. That said, public health is a very large area and there is a great opportunity.

Have to step back a little bit about why I got into public health. I got into public health because I usually travel to Africa. I'm from Eastern Nigeria, a place called Azira. I got to this country in the early '80s. My objective was to do business. Just make money and go back.

Each time I travel home, I found people are dying. From preventable diseases. My agemates, people who celebrated my coming to the United States, most are lost through the process. They were dying left and right. I was wondering what is happening here. People are no longer living long. Life expectancy is getting shorter and shorter. What is going on.

I came back and was so worried. I spoke to my wife about it. She is a registered nurse. She said if you really want to help your people, I think you should go and find out more about what is going on and how you can help and the best way is getting into public health because there's a lot of
opportunities in public health.

Want me to continue?

>> That is fantastic. Can you just tell, Chukwuemeka, our attendees a little bit (sirens in the background) how you moved up within your organization?

>> Yes.

And then we can move on, that would be great.

>> Yes. When I was working as a counselor, I was promoted as a program director with the organization. Called single parents. One of my jobs there was to design programs and help new counselors, teach them on how to handle people with sometimes abuse.

The other thing is to go out and speak publicly on areas that can help people prevent getting addicted.

One of those locations, I met people from Hopeful Step Foundation. That's when I was doing my MPH at Walden.

When I completed my MPH at Walden, they had an opportunity for somebody to take over the position of executive director of the organization, because they wanted somebody who had experience, who had been able to work with the people that are in need. And that risk population. The organization deal with the mentally disabled persons helps, then, to find homes where they can live. Helps them to be self-independent. How to handle certain things. And that's how I got to where I am today.

>> Excellent.

You have somebody who is asking about how he or she can get into a -- a job in public health.

Yes. You can get in there very easily. One of the things you can do while you are in school is to volunteer with your regional centers. I think in California here there are many offices of regional centers that take care of the mentally disabled people. Even adults that have some kind of health problem that need to live outside their homes.

When you volunteer with these regional centers, you can get a lot of information on how to get a job. And even where you can make good money working in assisted living field. And even where you can make good money working in assisted living field.

You have to look --

Now we are going to discuss some networking strategies. So you can see from his slide, Clifford recommends that you serve your community in any way you can.

You attend and get involved in local events and health screening. That is how he got founded by the non-profit and found a job. Make a difference. Make connections. This is, quote unquote, for him, how he bring about social change. That is fantastic.

Okay, now we will move on to networking. By tapping into the power of networking, like as many of our alumni presenters have done, you can learn from other professionals, establish your reputation, and then uncover opportunities.

So you want to make sure that you connect both online and face-to-face. In many ways that Mr. Obi has been recommended, Dr. Burcin and myself, is joining professional associations and get involved. Attend conferences, workshops, join LinkedIn groups, and we will recommend some in a moment. Showcase your knowledge, skills and strengths and keep building that network.

On the Career Services website under the resources tab, we have a list of professional associations. And I will also be adding additional resources that Dr. Burcin sent me along with the archived
webinar, so it will be going on our website.
If you go to the health sciences resources tab, then click on resources by college, as you can see
circled on the screen, you can go to our public health resources.
And then of course if you are on LinkedIn, and we hope that you are, it is currently the largest global
professional networking site.  Here is just a sample.  I put in the words public health into the
search box and clicked on groups.  These are just a small sampling.  Global public health, American
public health association.  You can see the large number of members they have in the thousands
and even hundreds of thousands.
So just the networking potential and connecting with others is pretty much infinite.  Exponential.
When you connect with people, feel free to reach out to them and schedule what is called an
informational interview.  When you ask a person 20 or 30 minutes of their time.  You come up with
some questions to ask them.  Gain insights into the profession, career path, typical day on the job.
It's a great way to build your network.
So during an informational interview, come up with a list of questions and, again, take this
opportunity to build the connection and relationship with them and share your knowledge and skill.
Always remember to stay in touch.
And with really piggy-backing on the whole idea of connecting with people on LinkedIn and
scheduling informational interviews, Marianna has a perfect career success story related to that.  So
welcome to the program, Marianna.
>> Thank you so much for having me.
>> Absolutely.  So Marianna, you -- networking was really, as I mentioned, a key factor in both
landing your practicum position as well as your permanent full-time position when you completed
your MPH.
Can you share your kind of networking story and some specific strategies you used to land your
practicum, then full-time position? That would be great.
>> Yes.  I definitely utilized LinkedIn, which is a great website.  Great professional networking
website.  First I created a pretty great profile.  Then I just started clicking.  I knew that I
was -- actually was seeking out public health professionals.  And I invited to connect.  I invited
them to connect.  I knew that I wanted to do my practicum at the state health department.  That
was my target company.
And I live in Austin.  Kind of limited here.  So our county health departments are small, so my
target was the state.  The state health department.  And so I just kind of kept sending messages to
people who -- accept my request to connect.  And I introduced myself and I described the -- my
practicum and what I needed and what I was interested in.
And I did get a response.
Now, mind you, I did send out a lot and only got one back, but that's all I needed.
So this person was actually the director of the emergency management section and he basically
helped me through the process of applying.  And I got the state blue ribbon internship, which is the
-- supposed to be prestigious and it was.  It was a nice internship.  I had a lot of fun.  I even
got to go with them to a conference in Dallas.  So the state covered my travel expenses to join in
this conference.  It was really great.  It was a great experience.
And then after that I did not get hired by the emergency department section because I didn't really
have that background.
But I just kept applying.  Applying to jobs.  Basically every day just check openings and apply to
what I thought would be a good fit for me and my background.
And then that's how I ended up with cancer registry.
But yeah, so I mean networking was definitely a big thing.  You really have to just kind of seek the
opportunities and don't be afraid to, you know, to connect with people.
Now, I also used someone on -- our academic coordinator.  She helped me with a job interview.
She prepared me. So that was very helpful.

>> That's great. And also, Marianna, when it came time to land the position at the registry, didn't you, again, then reach out to your old network?

>> Yes. The -- well, that's the academic coordinator. She was basically the internship -- she was kind of -- she is the person who oversees all the interns.

>> Oh, sure, preceptor, mmm-hmm.

>> No, no, no. We do have -- the state has a separate academic -- I forget the name.

[overlapping conversation]

>> Yeah, they have different type of internships. They have lot of interns. It's on the website. Anyway, this person is in charge of interviewing the interns and placing them, et cetera, et cetera. The preceptor who helped me get the internship was one of the section directors. He kind of happened to connect with me and that is how -- he sent my résumé forward to the academic coordinator. But in any event, she did help me with the preparation for the interview.

>> Mmm-hmm.

[overlapping conversation]

>> Yeah. We went over all the job requirements. We kind of made sure that my -- she asked me: So how did this fit your background? How can you do this? How can your experience fit on this requirement? Or, you know -- so those type of things. That was very helpful. And I was prepared. Definitely prepared. This time I did get an interview. Because before that, I submitted applications and no one called me back. So she really did help me a lot.

>> Okay, great. Thank you so much Marianna for sharing your story.

Another thing we can learn from you is persevere, don't give up. As you can see, her tips for success is be proactive, don't be afraid. Just connect with as many individuals as possible. Reach out for advice and help. Pursue what interests you, and be flexible and keep an open mind. She was really interested in going in one direction and ended up somewhere else. So you never know.

[overlapping conversation]

>> No, I was going to say you do have to be flexible. I never dreamed -- I didn't even know what a cancer registry was. So -- and we are actually the part of the state health department. So I do work for the state. But -- the health department. So you never know where you are going to end up.

>> Exactly. Thank you so much, Marianna.

>> Thank you again for having me.

>> Absolutely, absolutely. Okay, so moving on to your next steps, preparing for your practicum and beyond. Think about what else you need in order to achieve your goals. And with that, we are just going to jump right into our next speaker, our Walden alumni panelist and practicum preceptor. She has a double role here on the webinar.

(Audio feedback).

>> LaTonya, are you there?

>> Yes, I'm here.

>> Okay, great. It looks like I am getting a little feedback.

>> Mmm.

>> Okay, LaTonya, can you tell us what are some research, potential practicum [indiscernible]

>> Sure. I think it could be helpful to start with your professor. Many times professors have a history of sites that hosted students in the past. They may be able to give you a start there. As well as sometimes I received calls from people interested in internships. Even if we don't have an
opportunity available, I can make them aware of other similar organizations that might suit their needs.
So -- and even organizations who may have never hosted an intern, depending on what is presented in terms of interest and what their needs might be, they may be open to hosting. In turn. So, I would say just, you know, some things that were mentioned earlier, you know, perusing local health departments. Community-based organizations. Non-profit organizations. Healthcare entities. Just doing searches online to see what opportunities may exist.
Many times those opportunities are stated on the website. There is a wealth of information there in terms of programs, scope of services and care that might provide insight regarding opportunities.
>> Okay, fantastic. Go ahead.
>> I was going to say, internshipfinder.com is another resource that is very beneficial. It is the -- a website has a free service and it has tons of resources. So I'd suggest using that as well.
>> Oh, great. And what should students consider when exploring sites or identifying preceptors?
>> I would say depending on whether you have already specified an area of interest, you may, for example, if you are interested in a career change or you're not necessarily certain, you may want to explore a site that is doing work you are not familiar with. It could potentially open you up to additional opportunities. Some non-traditional opportunities mentioned before.
>> Right.
>> For example, you know, I have worked in human service provision for my entire career. But when seeking an internship site, I contacted the local health department. And they had opportunities available in the emergency preparedness section so I ended up interning there. It was a wonderful, insightful experience.
>> Thank you for sharing that, perfect. That's kind of what happened with Marianna. She intended to go one direction and went another.
>> Right, right.
>> How do students best market themselves, and Walden, like things you can think about since you have been a preceptor for a while, of how potential candidates can maybe stand apart or set themselves apart from being at Walden.
>> Sure. Again, I would echo some things that were mentioned before in terms of putting your strengths forward. Those transferable skills that, you know, you may not necessarily think are applicable to the site, presenting those so that the site can determine what projects or opportunities may exist within the site.
You know, someone may be well versed in SPSS, or Excel. You know. Many times that is an invaluable resource for organizations.
You know, if you are versed in research. Or volunteer coordination. Just putting those skills and experiences forth provides the preceptor with an opportunity for ideas of who the individual may be able to work with, programs they may be able to work with and initiatives that may be upcoming.
>> Those are really, really good points, thank you. Also, what do you particularly look for when you are interviewing potential candidates?
>> I am super busy, so I tend to look for individuals who are going to be able to contribute to our existing work in some manner. And so I specifically look for interest in our mission or interest in an issue that is related to our mission.
If there are interests or skills that are being presented that match organizational needs, those are things we are specifically always looking for.
We -- I also have colleagues who will communicate a need for an intern for a particular reason, so that is something that is kept front of -- that is kept front of mind when interviewing. But again, because of schedules, competing priorities, definitely looking for someone who can
function somewhat autonomously, who will be assertive and, you know, forthcoming about, you know, their interests and needs and, you know, effective communication. Ultimately, professionalism is super important because it's going to provide some level of insight regarding potential opportunities. Community engagement. And what the partnership between the preceptor and student could potentially look like.

>> Thank you so much, LaTonya. Really appreciate you sharing.

>> It is my pleasure.

>> With that, we will keep moving on.

Okay, we are getting some feedback. So from my side it is hard for me to tell. If you can make sure you are muting when not speaking. When you have to unmute, if you could make sure your computer volume is turned down. That would be great. It will help with feedback. Okay, so moving on. Considering next steps. I think all of our panelists have given you all excellent advice and personal stories and experiences on how to move forward. Consider your next steps. Are there any trainings. Are you interested in a doctoral program. I think there are plenty of resources here to get the questions answered for you, people and website resources.

We cannot emphasize enough, continue to build those qualifications and your reputation. Get involved with state and local associations. Volunteer. Attend conferences. Speak on your topic. Get involved in your community. Submit articles to a newsletter. Partner with another professional and deliver a presentation. You know, assume leadership roles at work. There are many things you can do. So just get out there. Even if you just pick one thing, to do it. Contribute to your community. And then of course you are supporting Walden's social change mission at the same time.

And with that, we are going to open it up for questions to our audience. So if you could just type your question in the question box, and my supervisor, Lisa Cook, will help us field the questions.

>> Thanks, Nicole. So the question is: Any suggestions on how to get part-time, online public health consulting opportunities.

>> Does anyone want to take that one?

>> What is the question, again, please?

>> Any suggestions on how to get part-time, online public health consulting opportunities.

>> Yes. There are opportunities to get online public health opportunities. If you can go into any of the local Department of Social Services or local public health sites, you will see requests for submission of articles. May be published in local communities. That way you can apply -- you can submit your own article and then from there they know who you are. May not be paid for. But subsequent ones you may start putting in some fees to be able to contribute in the local publication platforms. Because they need all these kind of resources in their side. Not just for use in the departments. They get information from outside as well.

Does that answer your question?

>> Yes, I believe it does. Thank you.

So let's see. Another question is what would you suggest for looking for opportunities in epidemiology beyond health departments, the CDC and World Health Organization. Are there other places to look beyond those organizations?

>> I can take this. This is Michelle.

Yeah, absolutely. So you know, the -- actually we are working on a webinar for this, so I would say stay tuned. The webinar would be called the many faces of epidemiology because of exactly what you are saying. The field of epidemiology is varied. So what an epidemiologist does at the CDC could -- it is so different than what an epidemiologist would be doing, say, at a state health department or
non-profit.
So what I'm thinking you are going to want to do, you can search the word "epidemiology" but you can also be searching for the skill or duties of an epidemiologist.
So it's a little bit -- it can be more a little bit trickier.  Only because it may not say the word "epidemiology" but the word is -- or the work is epidemiology.  So you study disease transmission.  You may not work for a health department but you are pulled in on, say, a disease -- or a disaster outbreak or disease outbreak in a local area.
You are still doing that type of work, but you are not classified an epidemiologist.
I would think more of the skill set, what you want to do.  Also I would challenge why you don't want to work in settings you just identified, as they will be probably the most likely to be hiring true epidemiologists that are working in that field full time.
All public health professionals are going to be having some component of epidemiology, some traces of epi in their job.  Others will be full-time epidemiology.  Talking to the epi profs would be a good starting point.  They have great experience in the field.
We don't hire any faculty within MPH that do not have practice-based experience.  They all have practice experience.
>> Great.
>> So the question a second ago regarding being -- looking for something online, there is a job posting board called flex jobs.  There are many public health positions posted in there.  Everything from curriculum writing to survey development writing, that type of thing.  Essay writing, blog writing.  Lot of opportunities.
>> Excellent, thank you.  Would you have any recommendations for biostatistics jobs with an MPH.  What types of roles?
>> Sure.  So biostatistics, I can say as someone that has a Ph.D., that word scares me!  So it is not my expertise.  It's not something I'm strong in.
So, if you are strong in it, you need to market it.  Because it is -- it is a skill set that is needed in the field of public health but not one that is widely -- that a lot of folks feel comfortable with.
So if you are good with biostats, running data, understanding SPSS, understanding possibly -- how to run qualitative versus quantitative data, there are many, many opportunities for you.  They may not be listed as biostatisticians, but they may be listed as working with data or surveying or research.  Almost all research, big research projects, are going to have biostatisticians on the team because they need someone running all the numbers.
Again, that would be more researching and looking for skill set versus just looking at that title of a job.  That is why looking for a job is a full-time job.  I feel that is my go-to saying.  It's a lot of work and time, but well spent.  It will be worth your time.
>> Great, thank you.  Any suggestions for building a LinkedIn profile that will stand out in the field of public health?
>> This is Nicole.  I can answer with LinkedIn.  The same advice applies to public health or anything else.
So, you know, again, I don't know your level of competency with LinkedIn, but LinkedIn, we have a webinar series for anyone interested on the archived webinar page.  It breaks LinkedIn into three steps.  Launching.  It shows how to build a profile up to a hundred percent with examples.  And branding with LinkedIn is what you're speaking of.  So branding yourself, think of what Dr. Burcin said and including and incorporating some key words.  What are your passions.  Taking advice from the webinar.
You can highlight accomplishments from your academic program.  Have you worked on projects, collaborated with teams, PowerPoints, you know.  What types of -- a sampling of your research work.  You can also self-publish on LinkedIn.  It is kind of like write articles and share them with the LinkedIn community.
You know, incorporate those key words. Show your work. You can upload videos, PowerPoint, Word documents, PDFs. So it is more than just a résumé, Linked In. But it is a comprehensive ePortfolio with visuals. Really, in your summary, I can't emphasize enough, you know, highlighting those key words what you are passionate about.

If you do not have a lot of advice, volunteer, join a professional association. All those things you can add to your Linked In profile will help reinforce your brand.

>> Lisa, this is Michelle. I'd like to add one more comment, if that is okay.

>> Sure.

>> So the last two questions I answered about epi and biostats, I believe that you all will receive a handout as a result of this. It's a laundry list of good websites for job searching. However, I just want to make a plug for one. It's the Emery School of Public Health. You should be able to Google if you are anxious to do it right now and don't have the handout in your hands. [coughing] It's Emery School of Public Health job posting board.

And on the left-hand side, you can view jobs in different ways.

You can view jobs by the city, by the country, the date posted. But you also have the ability to query down to the industry which I think is really good.

So the individual that asked about, you know, not wanting to work in, like government or state health department, you can look specifically here for non-profit or for-profit or other.

Or if you know the specific type of organization you want to work for you can search by organization. And then you also can search by title.

So if you are looking for a title of epidemiologist or looking for a title -- like I just queried epi. I see everything from epidemiologist, epidemiological specialist and assistant.

There is probably 15 job postings that all have "epi" at the title.

So a great site to try.

>> Thanks, Michelle, I'm taking note of that. Yeah, I looked at that site before.

>> Great. Okay.

I just am going to pass along a comment to thank all of our presenters. I know we are running out of time. A comment: This is a great webinar. I just got back to the computer. I listened the whole time. Walden graduate here, MPH 2011. I will be finished with my master's in higher ed this Sunday. I love Walden. I am listening to help my interns in public health at a local university in North Carolina.

I wanted to pass it along to thank Nicole and all of our presenters today for the valuable webinar. I will hand it to Nicole to wrap it up.

>> Thanks, Lisa. Thanks a lot. At the end we will have a few more resources you can tap into. I know we are short on time. I will move along. This all will be on our website. No need to write anything down.

These are big websites to research growing trends in the fields. You can look in the field of public health and in your state as well, and job outlook projections. A lot of what Dr. Burcin provided.

Here are highlights of the Career Services website. Optimal résumé system. We have relevant resources and public health résumé samples.

There's the resources tab at the top we mentioned throughout where you can identify job boards, professional associations and Linked In groups. And of course our archived webinars.

Here's specifically how to find the resources by college, going to health sciences. And a few of our highlighted webinars. We do have about 80 archived webinars you can tap into telling your career story, organizing your job search. Here's the strategic volunteering for those interested in volunteering. Then connect with Career Services.

And all kind of ways. You can go to our website. Email us. Schedule an appointment. Join our Linked In group. We have a YouTube channel. We have a phenomenal blog, career spotlights
where we showcase video career success stories of students from the residency.
Finally, thank you so much for participating. We'll leave you with this thought. The greatest medicine of all is to teach people how not to need it.
And we want to really thank all of our panelists and presenters and everyone who made this webinar possible. And have a wonderful evening, and thank you all very much, again, for joining.
(Event concluded)

* * * * *
This file is being provided in a lightly edited rough-draft format. Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART) is provided in order to facilitate communication accessibility and may not be a totally verbatim record of the proceedings.