

THE COLUMBUS-ATHENS SCHWEITZER FELLOWS PROGRAM

Purpose: To facilitate service projects to benefit the Columbus and Athens communities, and simultaneously develop emerging professionals who have the skills to address unmet health-related needs throughout their careers.

THE ALBERT
SCHWEITZER
FELLOWSHIP®
*Addressing Health Disparities
by Developing Leaders in Service*

“Start early to instill in your students awareness that they are on this earth to help and serve others; that is as important to pass on to them as knowledge.”

—Albert Schweitzer, PhD, MD

Transgender Wellness Initiative

Background

Transgender Ohioans face a range of disparities that affect their access to healthcare and lead to poorer health outcomes.

Among transgender Ohioans in 2011:

- 21% were refused medical care due to gender identity or expression
- 27% postponed needed medical care due to discrimination
- 44% reported attempting suicide

Partner

Stonewall Columbus (SWC) is the premier LGBTQ community center of Central Ohio, offering programming and services that enhance the well-being of LGBTQ community members.



Project

My work focused on enhancing the communication of health information to the local transgender population.

Specifically, I worked to:

- Create an interactive webinar series focusing on transgender health
- Provide an easily accessible web resource guide on general health and gender affirmation information
- Connect transgender community members with local providers of wellness services
- Promote a community dialogue on transgender healthcare access

Impact

Community members have been able to access health information online and in person, and these resources have drawn participants to engage in other programming at SWC.

Here is some selected feedback from an in-person event:

“Thanks for hosting this event and thanks to the Dr. for doing a Q&A. Our community gets a lot of mixed info and I hope this clarified things for many people!”

“I’m relieved to see another local doc getting attention.”



I would like to extend a special thank you to my academic mentor, Dr. Daniel Skinner, and my site mentors, Liam Gallagher and Lori Gum.



Heritage
College of
Osteopathic
Medicine

Nathaniel Kralik
Ohio University
Heritage College of
Osteopathic Medicine



2015-2016 Albert Schweitzer Fellow