



# The West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine



## **FOUNDING DIRECTOR, PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS**

*DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH-ASSOCIATE/FULL PROFESSOR(TENURE TRACK, VOTING FACULTY POSITION)*

Reports to Associate Academic Dean. Summary: The Director, Public Health Programs and Department of Public Health is responsible for the establishment, development, and management of a new public health master's degree program, which will have special emphasis on rural and/or Appalachian health issues and/or health disparities.

Responsibilities will include recruiting additional public health faculty, developing and implementing the educational program, obtaining initial accreditation, and initiating an appropriate public health research program. This individual will also be responsible for teaching or delegating teaching of public health content within WVSOM's osteopathic medical education curriculum. Will serve within the leadership team for WVSOM's new Center for Obesity and Related Diseases with emphasis on obesity and related diseases (now under development – see that position posting).

We expect to collaborate with other institutions of higher education, including West Virginia University, to establish the public health program.

The ideal candidate is an experienced educator/administrator who understands and can lead the process necessary to develop, establish and direct a new Master's in Public Health program at WVSOM. WVSOM anticipates hiring this Director and additional Public Health faculty members during the next two years. This is a tenure track, full-time, 12-month faculty appointment with an administrative supplement for serving as founding director of a new master's degree in public health and director of our new Department on Public Health.

Specific job functions: Plan and implement a new master's degree in public health which meets and exceeds accreditation requirements. The new master's program must include at least one component of the program focusing on needs of primary care practitioners in rural Appalachia and the health disparities of West Virginia including obesity and related diseases. As part of the development process, establish necessary relationships with other faculty/administrators, partners at other educational institutions, osteopathic medical students, primary care practitioners and other potential applicants, state public health officers, and our community. Submit grant proposals to assist in funding of programs. Collaborate with other institutions of higher education, including

West Virginia University, to establish the program. Providing energetic and effective leadership for this new initiative. Assist with recruitment and evaluation of other members of the new Department. Manage Department budget. Teach and/or coordinate teaching of public health concepts within the osteopathic medical curriculum and for continuing education programs. Assist with assessment and continual improvement of the osteopathic medical curriculum. Perform traditional duties of a faculty member, including teaching, course coordination, research, committee/institutional service, and community service. Conduct individual and collaborative research, preferably in areas relevant to WVSOM's Center for Obesity and Related Diseases. Performs other related duties as assigned.

Qualifications: VA doctoral degree and formal training in public health and public health research methods. Teaching, research, and service experience in the area of public health. Successful administrative experience within an MPH program and experience with the process of accreditation of MPH programs preferred. An established record of peer-reviewed publications and extramural funding as an independent investigator preferred.

DrPH, PhD-Public Health, DO-DrPH, or MD-DrPH degree preferred, but will consider other terminal degrees with related experience (some doctorate required). Experience in obesity or other health-related disparities is highly desired. Additionally the successful candidate has experience in strategic planning, budget development and management and demonstrates vision, creativity, and a sense of entrepreneurship.

Position: This full-time 12 month faculty position has full state benefits and is exempt from FLSA provisions regarding overtime. Salary will be competitive and commensurate with experience. Open immediately, start date negotiable.

Background: West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine (WVSOM) is best known for our exceptional success in graduating osteopathic physicians who serve in areas of need, particularly in rural West Virginia and Appalachia. While this mission continues, our new president is committed to adding a public health program and increasing our research activity, and he is fully funding these initiatives.

West Virginia has a long history of serious health disparities, which beg for public health solutions. The latest Behavioral Risk Factor Survey shows WV first (worst) in the percentage of residents reporting having diabetes or having had a heart attack, and among the five worst states in residents reporting current smoking, being obese, or having had a stroke. The age-adjusted rate of heart disease in 1995 was 21% higher than the national average and 49th in the nation. WV is the second most rural state in the nation, and is the only state falling completely within Appalachia. WVSOM's new Center for Obesity and Related diseases with emphasis on obesity and related diseases, is intended to help WVSOM address these needs. Our new public health programs will play a critical part in both the needed research and new interventions.

Lewisburg – with population less than 4,000 – is proof that a small town in a rural community can be a delightful place to live and work, with low crime rates, friendly people, live theater, fine dining, and exceptional outdoor activities, including near-by

hiking, caving, skiing and white-water rafting. Greenbrier County has an estimated 35,000 in population.

Application: Qualified applicants should send a cover letter, current resume, and a list of five references and their contact information to include addresses, e-mail, and phone numbers to Leslie Bicksler, Director, Human Resources. Applicants are encouraged to send application packets via e-mail [lbicksler@osteo.wvsom.edu](mailto:lbicksler@osteo.wvsom.edu). Material that cannot be e-mailed may be sent to Leslie Bicksler, WVSOM, 400 North Lee Street, Lewisburg, WV 24901.

Applications are considered confidential, and references will not be contacted without notifying the applicant. The search committee will begin its review of applications upon receipt.

West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to enhancing diversity among its faculty and staff.