

## Faculty and staff accomplishments (Jan. 1-Aug. 31)

### *Accomplishment kudos*

**Nelida Acosta**, Hometown Scholars coordinator, strategic university partnerships, ATSU, received the 2024 Outstanding Migrant Health Center Board Member award from the National Association of Community Health Centers. Acosta was recognized for her commitment to Adelante Healthcare in Phoenix and for advancing migrant health initiatives.

**Candace Ayars, PhD**, associate professor, health education, ATSU-CGHS, received ATSU-CGHS' 2024 Professor of the Year award for the second consecutive year.

**Angel Baez Vega, PhD**, adjunct faculty, health administration, ATSU-CGHS, earned a doctor of health sciences degree from ATSU-CGHS.

**Shelley Baltodano, AuD**, assistant professor, audiology, ATSU-ASHS, graduated from the Teaching & Learning Center's 2024 Asynchronous Course Design Institute and Introduction to Educational Technology course.

**Doug Brtek, EdD**, received ATSU-CGHS' 2024 Adjunct of the Year award for health professions education.

**Brian Castillo-Murillo**, coordinator, diversity & inclusion, ATSU, received the Employee Excellence Award for Arizona and California campuses for the first quarter of 2024.

**Sonya Clark**, assistant director, procurement services, ATSU, received the Missouri campus Employee Excellence Award for the fourth quarter of 2024.

**Michael DePalma, DMSc, MHS, PA-C, DFAAPA**, associate professor and director, biomedical sciences, ATSU-ASHS, graduated from the Teaching & Learning Center's 2024 Asynchronous Course Design Institute.

**Lihua Dishman, DBA, MBA, FACHE**, associate professor, health administration, ATSU-CGHS, received ATSU-CGHS' 2024 Faculty Scholarship & Research/TOL Committee Technology Grant award. She also received the 2023-24 Service Award from the American College of Healthcare Executives. In addition, Dr. Dishman was elected to a third one-year term as chair of Michigan Academy of Sciences Arts and Letters' Health and Human Services section.

**David Doublestein, PT, PhD, CLT, Cert MDT, LLCC**, associate professor, director of progress, physical therapy, ATSU-ASHS, received the 2024 ATSU-ASHS Scholar of the Year award during the ATSU-ASHS faculty assembly in May.

**John Fick, EdD, MS, FACHE**, associate professor, health administration, ATSU-CGHS, was elected to a one-year term as vice chair of Michigan Academy of Sciences Arts and Letters' Health and Human Services section. In addition, he was appointed to the Association of University Programs in Health Administration/Health Administration Press Editorial Board for a three-year term.

**Carrie Gaines**, specialist, human resources, ATSU, earned a master of public health degree from ATSU-CGHS.

**John Gardner, PhD, MEd**, director of policy & employee education, Title IX & civil rights coordinator, human resources, ATSU, received the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. State Celebration Commission of Missouri 2024 Distinguished Community Service Award.

**Nazgol Gharbi, DDS, MPH, '19**, adjunct faculty, public health, ATSU-CGHS, was awarded fellowships from the Pierre Fauchard Academy and International College of Dentists.

**Lee Ann Glowzinski, PhD**, assistant director, university writing center, ATSU, graduated from the Teaching & Learning Center's 2024 Asynchronous Course Design Institute.

**Sara Grgurich**, manager, sponsored programs, ATSU, earned a master of public health degree from ATSU-CGHS.

**Nicolette "Nikki" Harris, DAT, LAT, ATC, CSCS**, assistant professor, director of student recruitment, athletic training, ATSU-ASHS, received the 2024 National Athletic Trainers' Association Ethnic Diversity Advisory Committee Bill Chisolm Professional Service Award. Dr. Harris was recognized for her contributions to the development and enhancement of ethnically diverse athletic trainers.

**Marisa Hastie, EdD, MS, ACSM EP-C, PN-1, FACSM**, dean, ATSU-CGHS, was appointed to American College of Sports Medicine's Exercise is Medicine Underserved and Community Health Committee for a three-year term.

**Tiffany Hines, PhD, MEd**, assistant professor, speech-language pathology, ATSU-ASHS, graduated from the Teaching & Learning Center's 2024 Asynchronous Course Design Institute.

**Kellie Huxel Bliven, PhD, ATC**, professor and chair, interdisciplinary health sciences, ATSU-ASHS, graduated from the Teaching & Learning Center's 2024 Asynchronous Course Design Institute.

**Brenda Jackson**, senior administrative assistant, academic affairs, ATSU, received the Employee Excellence Award for Arizona and California campuses for the second quarter of 2024.

**Breanne Jaqua, DO, MPH**, associate professor, clinical science education, ATSU-SOMA, was selected for the class of 2024 National Academy of Medicine Fellowship in Osteopathic Medicine.

**Pamela Kays, PT, DPT, EdD**, assistant professor, director of curriculum, physical therapy, ATSU-ASHS, received the 2024 ATSU-ASHS Educator of the Year award during the ATSU-ASHS faculty assembly in May.

**Holly Klusmeyer**, project manager, assessment & accreditation, ATSU, graduated from the Teaching & Learning Center's 2024 Introduction to Educational Technology course.

**Rosemary Kuilan**, administrative support, enrollment services, ATSU, received the Missouri campus Employee Excellence Award for the first quarter of 2024.

**Daniel Lebedies**, specialist, ATSU-ASDOH, graduated from the Teaching & Learning Center's 2024 Introduction to Educational Technology course.

**Maurice Lee, MD, MPH, FAAFP**, assistant professor, clinical science education, ATSU-SOMA, graduated from the Teaching & Learning Center's 2024 Asynchronous Course Design Institute and Introduction to Educational Technology course.

**Patricia Lodato, PhD**, assistant professor, microbiology, ATSU-KCOM, graduated from the Teaching & Learning Center's 2024 Asynchronous Course Design Institute.

**Kimberly Lovell, MEd**, instructor, dental hygiene, predoctoral education, ATSU-ASDOH, graduated from the Teaching & Learning Center's 2024 Introduction to Educational Technology course.

**Clair Lunt, DHSc, MN, RN**, received ATSU-CGHS' 2024 Adjunct of the Year award for nursing.

**Ivonne Maldonado De la Rosa, PhD, CCC-SLP**, assistant professor, speech-language pathology, ATSU-ASHS, graduated from the Teaching & Learning Center's (TLC) 2023

Educational Research course. She also became an ATSU-certified health sciences educator through the TLC's Level Up! certificate program. In addition, she received the 2024 ATSU-ASHS Faculty Service of the Year award during the ATSU-ASHS faculty assembly in May.

**Shanu Markand, PhD**, associate professor, anatomy, ATSU-KCOM, was awarded the 2023-24 A.T. Still Staff Award for Excellence in Teaching.

**Lulu Martinez Nieto, PhD**, associate professor, speech-language pathology, ATSU-ASHS, graduated from the Teaching & Learning Center's 2023 Educational Research course.

**Sue McDaniel, MS**, instructional designer, ATSU-CGHS, received ATSU-CGHS' 2024 Adjunct of the Year award for health sciences.

**Stephanie McGrew, MHA**, assistant director, diversity & inclusion, ATSU, received ATSU-CGHS' 2024 Alumni of the Year award.

**Mary-Katherine McNatt, DrPH, MPH, MCHES, CPH, COI**, professor and chair, public health, ATSU-CGHS, received the 2024 National Rural Health Association's President's Award.

**Presley Melvin-Dean, MA**, academic advisor, ATSU-CGHS, earned a master of public health degree from ATSU-CGHS.

**Sumitra Miriyala, PhD, MBA, MPH, FAHA**, associate professor, anatomy, ATSU-KCOM, graduated from the Teaching & Learning Center's (TLC) 2024 Asynchronous Course Design Institute and Introduction to Educational Technology course. In addition, Dr. Miriyala completed the TLC's Level Up! certificate program to become an ATSU-certified health sciences educator.

**Osariemen Okhuaihesuyi, BDS, FMCDS**, assistant professor and director, integrated human sciences, ATSU-MOSDOH, graduated from the Teaching & Learning Center's 2024 Asynchronous Course Design Institute.

**Patrick Palmieri, DHSc, EdS, MBA, MSN, ACNP, RN**, adjunct faculty, health sciences, ATSU-CGHS, was appointed to the Scopus Content Selection and Advisory Board as subject chair for nursing and health professions. In addition, he received ATSU-CGHS' 2024 Michael Samuels Impact Award.

**Kelsey Picha, PhD, ATC**, associate professor, interdisciplinary health sciences, ATSU-ASHS, was co-author of "Exploring the Use of a Social Determinants of Health

Focused History Script to Facilitate Patient Conversations,” which received the 2023 Outstanding Manuscript Award from the *Athletic Training Education Journal*.

**Scott Rankin, DDS, MS**, received ATSU-CGHS’ 2024 Adjunct of the Year award for public health.

**Dalton Rolland**, associate director of sustained giving, development, ATSU, received the Missouri campus Employee Excellence Award for the second quarter of 2024.

**Michael Ryan, PhD, MS**, adjunct faculty, kinesiology, ATSU-CGHS, earned a master of science in kinesiology degree from ATSU-CGHS. In addition, he received ATSU-CGHS’ 2024 Adjunct of the Year award for kinesiology.

**Jason Salas, MAEd**, instructional designer, ATSU-CGHS, received ATSU-CGHS’ 2024 Outstanding Employee Award.

**Eric Sauers, PhD, ’97**, dean and professor, ATSU-CHC, was invited to serve as a member on the Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce board of directors. His three-year term began July 1.

**Herbert Silva, DMD, FICD**, assistant professor and director, dental comprehensive care unit, clinical education, ATSU-MOSDOH, received the Distinguished Humanitarian Award from the International College of Dentists during its 90th annual convocation in September.

**Daniel Smith, PhD, MBA**, associate professor, public health, ATSU-CGHS, was awarded funding from the ATSU Community Health Workgroup Quality Improvement & Research Pilot Project Grant as primary investigator for an innovative community health project aligning with ATSU’s strategic focus on improving community health research outcomes.

**Rhionna Smith, DHA, MSPAS, PA-C**, adjunct faculty, health administration, ATSU-CGHS, received the 2024 Dissertation of the Year award. **John Fick, EdD, FACHE**, associate professor, and **Kathie Thomas, DHA**, adjunct faculty, were her dissertation committee members, and **Lihua Dishman, DBA, MBA**, associate professor, was her dissertation committee chair.

**Adam Story, PT, DPT, OTR/L, OTD, MTC**, assistant professor, occupational therapy, ATSU-ASHS, received the 2024 ATSU-ASHS Junior Faculty of the Year award during the ATSU-ASHS faculty assembly in May.

**Kathie Thomas, DHA, MPH**, received ATSU-CGHS’ 2024 Adjunct of the Year award for health administration.

**Susan Thomas, MEd**, instructional designer, ATSU-CGHS, earned a doctor of education in health professions degree from ATSU-CGHS.

**Cristina Tipei, PA-C**, assistant professor, physician assistant studies, ATSU-CHC, graduated from the Teaching & Learning Center's 2024 Asynchronous Course Design Institute.

**Michele Tourné, PT, DPT, PCS**, adjunct professor, physical therapy, ATSU-ASHS, graduated from the Teaching & Learning Center's 2024 Asynchronous Course Design Institute.

**Dougherty Tsalabutie, MS**, director, National Center for American Indian Health Professions, diversity & inclusion, ATSU, earned a doctor of education in health professions degree from ATSU-CGHS.

**Tamara Valovich McLeod, PhD, ATC, FNATA, FNAK, FNAP**, professor and chair, athletic training, ATSU-ASHS, graduated from the Teaching & Learning Center's 2024 Asynchronous Course Design Institute.

**Malathy Venkatesh, PhD, CCC-SLP**, assistant professor, speech-language pathology, ATSU-ASHS, graduated from the Teaching & Learning Center's 2023 Educational Research course and 2024 Asynchronous Course Design Institute and Introduction to Educational Technology course.

**Kirsten Voak**, project coordinator, integrated community service partnerships, ATSU-ASDOH, received the Employee Excellence Award for the Arizona and California campuses for the fourth quarter of 2023.

**Mitzi Wasden, DDS, MS**, adjunct faculty, pre-doctoral education, ATSU-ASDOH, completed the Teaching & Learning Center's Level Up! certificate program to become an ATSU-certified health sciences educator.

**Cailee Welch Bacon, PhD, ATC**, associate professor, athletic training, ATSU-ASHS, received the 2024 Professional Development Excellence Award from the National Athletic Trainers' Association Professional Development Committee. Dr. Welch Bacon was recognized for her outstanding contributions to athletic training continuing education and professional development.