

**Eta Sigma Gamma  
Professional Member At-Large (PMAL)  
Candidate Information Form**

Name: Philip Welch, MCHES                      Degree(s): PhD – Health Education

Position: Assistant Professor

Department: Public & Allied Health

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Work experience (# years):

7 years as Health Educator at the University of Michigan Health System

3 years as a Personal Trainer at One on One Athletic Club in Ann Arbor, MI

8 years in academia at the University of Toledo and Bowling Green State University

1. Please describe your interest in ESG and being on the Board of Directors.

I joined ESG in 2007 while at the University of Toledo. I am a member of many health-related organizations, but ESG is where my heart is. ESG is a network of like-minded professionals devoted to advancing the field of health education. Fifty years of devoted work by numerous academicians, professionals, and students have grown the Honorary in size and influence.

I am interested in joining the Board of ESG because I want to help promote public health education interests at the state and national level. The current political climate in Ohio and in Washington is distressing to me. Public health education is getting short shrift. We are seeing the marginalization of social justice issues like LGBTQ rights, unfair racial profiling, and prisoner maltreatment, along with a dangerous upsurge in climate change denial. Public funding should be used for educating and implementing health promotion programs to solve real issues, not potentially diverted to build walls.

In Ohio, opioid abuse painfully burdens families and communities. Gun advocates claim (erroneously and unsurprisingly) that the way to prevent gun violence is by giving everyone a gun. Health education in K-12 schools is sub-par while mental health illness in children and adolescents increases at an alarming rate. There are so many issues I would like to help address.

I want to help ESG continue to advocate for solving complex social issues through education. It is not okay that ignorance and arrogance undermine evidence and reason. Mentoring, encouraging, and supporting the ESG membership, especially our students, to produce strong research reports and to advocate for health education must remain a high priority for ESG. I could bring to ESG expertise in public health, survey research, experience mentoring student researchers, proven ability to work well with others, symposium planning experience, and my passion for advocating for the prevention of disease.

2. Please describe if you have any prior experience in working with ESG/Gammans on a local (chapter) or national level.

## ESG PMAL

Dr. Jeff Clark first made me aware of ESG during my Master's degree program at Ball State University. While I did not join the Honorary at that time, Dr. Clark did pique my interest. A few years later, through the generosity of an ESG travel grant, I reunited with Dr. Clark at an ESG conference in Denver. He was excited to learn that I had become student president of the Iota chapter.

I credit Dr. Tim Jordan and Dr. Amy Thompson for re-introducing me to ESG at the University of Toledo (UT) during my doctoral training. I served as student president of the ESG – Iota chapter at UT for one year. We planned and implemented several community events and fundraisers, including an annual holiday toy drive for at-risk Toledo families, a flu shot campaign targeting elderly community members, and a research project conducted at a Komen Race for the Cure event. We published this research in the Health Education Monograph.

While at UT, I presented research at the Health Educators' Institute (HEI) with Dr. Rob Braun who is the immediate past president of Ohio SOPHE. Currently, three of my student mentees at BGSU have submitted research abstracts for consideration at the 2017 HEI in Maumee, OH.

Two current ESG board members, Dr. Everhart and Dr. Blavos, are very familiar with me. Dr. Everhart was a student in my Master of Public Health class in spring 2017 and I often see Dr. Blavos at national conferences. I have also worked with past ESG president Dr. Ranjita Misra on chronic wound research. We presented data at a national conference in Denver.

3. Can you demonstrate evidence of leadership in your work or extracurricular activities?

I have planned every aspect of two symposia and served as a planning committee member on a third. I mentor undergraduate and graduate students in research. Several of my mentees have presented research at state and national conferences. I am Graduate Coordinator for our department guiding the research projects of three to four Graduate Assistantships each semester, facilitating monthly meetings, budgeting for the future, and generating student contracts. I also had a lead role in developing a marketing video for the new undergraduate major in Public Health at BGSU. You can view the video here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1WvAZxTg97A>

4. The PMAL candidate is required to serve a three-year term. As the PMAL, you are to commit at least 10 hours per month to participate on conference calls with other ESG Board members (average 10/year; 1-2 hours per meeting), review applications for chapter awards, and plan conference sessions for the annual ESG national meeting, and attend the annual board meetings (one professional conference and one board meeting associated with the national SOPHE conference). Explain if you will be able to do this.

Service is one of the three pillars of professorship. If elected, serving as Professional Member At-Large would align with the service component of my job as an Assistant Professor. It would be straightforward to integrate the duties and responsibilities listed above into my day-to-day job. Furthermore, my schedule provides flexibility to travel as needed and ample time to field conference calls. I receive a professional development stipend that I can use to help defray travel expenses.

5. Do you have experience serving on boards? If so, please explain.

This would be my first opportunity to serve on a board. However, I have and do serve on numerous oversight committees and task forces charged with providing guidance and leadership to health education partners in the Bowling Green and Toledo community.

6. Please describe the skills that you would bring to ESG. (Please respond to all that apply.)

<b>Skills</b>	<b>Comments/Examples</b>
High energy level	During the 2017 spring semester I taught four subjects to over 100 students, Chaired a faculty search committee, submitted a manuscript for publication, presented research at a state conference, and Chaired the BGSU Public Health Symposium on Climate Change attracting over 100 attendees. Regular exercise augmented by caffeine will help me bring energy to ESG.
Discipline	In addition to my commitments as Assistant Professor, I have a wife that works as a Plastic Surgeon and two boys in elementary school involved in hockey, baseball, taekwondo, band, gymnastics, and football. We are able to navigate our hectic routines through commitment to a disciplined daily routine. Having a family calendar posted by the door helps. I would add any ESG-associated duties to our family calendar.
Communication and interpersonal skills	My oral communication skills shine due to lecturing for an average of 4 hours each week for the past 8 years. Numerous committee meetings and interactions with students during weekly office hours also help.
Experience with ESG or other honor societies	As student president of the Iota chapter, I had the opportunity to be involved in several community health interventions, fundraisers, and chapter business matters. I have also published in The Health Education Monograph.
Positive teamwork experience	I have 8 years of experience working on university committees, coalitions, and task forces. I enjoy meetings. I think this stems from my eagerness to meet new people and discuss issues.
Problem-solving and decision-making skills	Being the Chair of a faculty search committee that lead to a successful hire honed my decision-making skills; I have been a search committee member for four additional successful faculty hires.
Organizational skills	Being Chair of planning committees for two BGSU Public Health Symposia requires good organizational skills.
Record of responsibility	I have never been in jail. I have also been Graduate Coordinator for our department for 5 years and I supervise 3-4 Graduate Assistants every semester.
Working with diverse groups	The modern classroom at BGSU is quite diverse. I teach international students, students from low and high-income families, and LGBTQ students. I introduce concepts that unite, not separate. Students describe my classrooms as welcoming.
Other	Manuscript review experience, review of candidates for student awards, abstract reviews for inclusion at APHA meetings, survey

	research expertise.
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