

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

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Position: Assistant Professor & Director, BS in Public Health

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Briefly describe your work experience and duration within the health education profession: I am entering my 4th year as assistant professor of health education/public health and my 3rd year as director of the undergraduate public health program. Prior to obtaining my PhD in health education at the University of Toledo (in 2015), I worked for 4 years with a Toledo replication site of the Children's Aid Society Carrera Program, a holistic teen pregnancy prevention program that has been written about extensively in the public health literature. I was initiated as a Gamman in the Iota chapter (Toledo) and currently serve as the faculty sponsor of the Alpha Alpha chapter here in Carbondale. Lastly, I am active at APHA, particularly in the HIV AIDS section, where I have served as program co-chair, chair-elect, and (currently) section chair.

Please respond to the following questions. If selected for the ballot, your responses will be shared with members for election purposes.

1. Please describe your interest in Eta Sigma Gamma and becoming a member on the National Board of Directors.
Eta Sigma Gamma has always been an integral part of my experience as a health educator, both during my time as a doctoral student and currently, as a faculty member. Throughout my studies, my ESG connections helped connect me with professional mentors, local service organizations and other health education students. As faculty sponsor, I witness regularly how engaging in ESG is both professionally and socially fulfilling for students. Having taken part in both capacities, as a student and as a faculty mentor, I would like to continue my service with ESG by serving as a professional member-at-large and give back to the organization that has served me so well for the past 7 years.
2. Describe your experience working with ESG/Gammans at a local (chapter) or national level.
As a doctoral student, I was an active member of ESG, and I served as the social chair. Presently, I am the faculty sponsor for the Alpha Alpha chapter at SIU Carbondale, a role in which I have served now for over three years, since I arrived on campus as a faculty member. In that time, I have mentored students in a variety of important ways. I have helped them arrange service opportunities throughout the community that allow them to utilize their classroom knowledge and skills to help educate and/or give back to the community. I have assisted them in arranging fundraisers, and I have guided them through a sub-award of the FRUVED program. Most recently, last year, I helped our e-board and Gammans organize and implement the 1st ever Illinois Public Health Career Fair, co-sponsored by the Illinois Public Health Association. Under my supervision, members from our chapter have

submitted an article about the creation, implementation, and evaluation of the fair to the *Health Education Student Monograph Series*.

3. How have you exhibited leadership in your work or extracurricular activities?
 I take on a variety of leadership roles, within my institution, my profession, and my community. I am the Section Chair of HIV AIDS at the American Public Health Association, for which I guide our section through a variety of tasks, from fundraising, to scientific program creation (I was previously Program Co-Chair as well), to section priorities, among others. I have been elected as Region 2 Delegate to the Illinois Education Association (2016) in the past as well. As undergraduate program advisor, I take leadership roles in collecting and summarizing program self-study documents, updating syllabi and curricula, overseeing student internships, and making executive decisions about course offerings. Additionally, I have overseen (and currently oversee) a variety of doctoral student dissertations, both within and external to my department. In my research, I take on multiple leadership roles. I am presently engaged in resubmitting an NIH R15 application for which I am the PI of a multi-institution, student-and-community-engaged study using faith community nurses to implement colorectal cancer screening strategies. I am currently co-leading a study assessing the cancer prevention and control needs of rural populations of color in southernmost Illinois; within this study, I oversee graduate research assistants who are helping with data collection and management. Lastly, I have regularly been assigned research assistants since my first semester at SIU Carbondale (2015) who I have regularly mentored; I have published manuscripts and presented research at conferences with these students.

4. Do you have experience serving on any boards? If so, please explain.
 I am presently the Section Chair of HIV AIDS at the American Public Health Association, one of three Faculty Senate representatives in the College of Education and Human Services at SIU Carbondale, the Communications Chair for the Campus-wide Mentoring Committee, and a member of the LGBTQ History Month Planning Committee. Previously, I have served on the College of Education and Human Service’s Academic Advisory Committee and College Advisory Committee. I am also a full member in the American Academy of Health Behavior. Lastly, I sit on two important community coalitions: the Jackson County (IL) HIV Advisory Board and the Healthy Southern 7 Region Committee (serving the southernmost rural counties of IL).

5. The PMAL candidate is required to serve a three-year term. As the PMAL, you will 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, attend the annual board meetings (one professional conference and one board meeting associated with the national SOPHE conference), and other duties as needed from the National Office. Explain if you will be able to do this.
 Yes, I would be able and excited to perform these tasks. I have had to perform similar duties in my multiple roles with the HIV AIDS section (APHA), and I feel as if I would bring strong experience that would translate well to the PMAL position for ESG.

6. Using the table below, please describe the skills that you would bring to ESG National Board of Directors. (Please respond to all that apply.)

Skills	Comments/Examples
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ESG PMAL

High energy level	I regularly “juggle” quite a few tasks, and as a result, I am highly organized (with many calendars!)—given my multiple duties, it is essential I have a high energy level and a strong work ethic.
Discipline	Same as above. Additionally, I am submitting one NIH grant in October, and I am in the planning phases of submitting another in the spring (and a few others next academic year). These projects are both time/labor intensive and feature collaborators from other institutions. To make these sorts of projects “work,” I must remain disciplined and highly organized.
Communication and interpersonal skills	In my role as undergraduate program director, it is essential that I bring strong communication skills not only to my students but to administrators when I advocate for resources for our program. Additionally, I help market our program to community colleges and high schools.
Experience with ESG or other honor societies	Initiated member of Iota chapter; current faculty sponsor of Alpha Alpha chapter
Experience in organizational work	See responses to questions #4 and #5 above.
Positive teamwork experience	I regularly work in teams, both with service opportunities and in research. I prefer working with groups of likeminded individuals rather than working alone.
Problem-solving and decision-making skills	I value ensuring that diverse opinions and approaches are always represented when making important decisions; as leader in service organizations and as an instructor, I have always seen my role as a facilitator—to help summarize the multiple views and then, collectively, come to the best decision.
Time management and organizational skills	See my response for “Discipline.” I maintain a highly organized work environment so that I never miss deadlines or other important meetings.
Record of responsibility	I have been elected to numerous board and advocacy positions in my relatively-young academic career because I have a history of being responsible and attending all required meetings.
Working with diverse groups	The student population at SIU Carbondale draws heavily from first-generation, African American students from both Chicago and St. Louis. My research focuses on the social determinants of health and health disparities among rural populations of color. Additionally, I have performed a variety of service roles for HIV and LGBTQ advocacy groups. Collectively, I am well-versed in working with diverse groups.
Other	