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VOICES OF PUBLIC HEALTH

A message from our community



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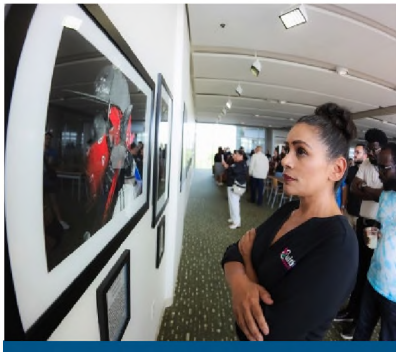
Incoming Department Chair Professor Burkholder reflects on her leadership experience, core values, and priorities for the year ahead. Her message emphasizes collaboration, student success, and community impact, offering a thoughtful perspective on advancing public health together at UC Merced.

“Public health is fundamentally about improving lives and communities. I want to ensure our work—whether teaching, research, or service—has tangible, positive impacts beyond our campus.”

— Nancy J. Burkholder, Department Chair

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Research and action



Community Partnership Advancing Farmworker Health

Claudia Corchado of Cultiva Central Valley reflects on a long-standing collaboration with UC Merced faculty Nancy Burke and PhD Student Kesia Garibay to advance health equity for farmworker and immigrant communities. Their partnership highlights community-engaged research, advocacy, and the powerful stories behind *De Mis Manos a Tu Mesa*.

[More >](#)

Student leaders



Centering Community in Public Health Research

A UC Merced doctoral student reflects on how lived experience, community-centered research, and mentorship shaped her public health journey. Her work on tobacco use in MENA communities highlights the power of culturally grounded research and student leadership in advancing health equity.

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Student Interns to Help Grow Department Visibility

The Public Health Department is thrilled to welcome new student interns, Alex Dominguez and Natali Fuentes. Their work will help expand the Department's visibility and connections by identifying regional health programs, creating, and curating media content, and more!

[More >](#)

Department beat



Public Health Coffee & Cookies Builds Community

Coffee & Cookies sessions happened for the first time this Fall to promote a sense of community among public health students and faculty. These informal gatherings gave students a chance to connect, enjoy a treat, and get dedicated advice on their academic path.

[More >](#)

Faculty on the forefront



Newest Faculty Member Focuses on Health and Place

The Public Health Department enthusiastically welcomes the newest faculty member, Dr. Xing Gao. A social epidemiologist, Professor Gao studies how place-based inequities rooted in power structures affect maternal and cardiovascular health. She is also interested in the combined health effects of social marginalization and local environmental hazards.

[More >](#)

Follow the link below for more stories about UC Merced Public Health Department faculty research.

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Contact us

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