Faculty and staff accomplishments (March 1-August 31)

Accomplishment kudos

Nelida Acosta, Hometown Scholar coordinator, university partnerships, ATSU, received the Distinguished Service Award during the annual Arizona campus Employee Recognition & Award Ceremony.

Hussein Al-Wakeel, DDS, assistant professor, ATSU-MOSDOH, received the Outstanding Teacher Award from the class of 2024 during the ATSU Student Government Association awards ceremony.

Cailee Welch Bacon, PhD, ATC, associate professor, athletic training, ATSU-ASHS, was awarded the 2022 Emerging Educator Award from the National Athletic Trainers’ Association Professional Education Committee. In addition, Dr. Welch Bacon received the 2022 Educator of the Year award during the annual ATSU-ASHS faculty assembly.

Graziela Ribeiro Batista, DDS, PhD, assistant professor, ATSU-MOSDOH received the Outstanding Teacher Award from the class of 2025 during the ATSU Student Government Association awards ceremony.

Annette Bettridge, MS, PA-C, assistant professor, physician assistant studies, ATSU-ASHS, received a doctor of education in health professions degree from ATSU-CGHS.

Michael Bradbury, PhD, MPhil, professor and chair, biochemistry, ATSU-KCOM, received the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award from Marquis Who’s Who.

Heather Brown, EdD, MTS, assistant director, University Writing Center, ATSU, received the ATSU-CGHS 2021 Outstanding Employee Award.

David Cleaver, DO, assistant professor, internal medicine, ATSU-KCOM, received the A.T. Still Staff Award for Excellence in Teaching for Clinical Sciences during the annual Missouri campus Employee Recognition & Award Ceremony.

Robert Clegg, PhD, MPH, associate professor and chair, health administration, ATSU-CGHS, obtained a $500 student scholarship from the Upsilon Phi Delta Honor Society for a deserving health administration student.

J. Rich Cohen, DDS, assistant professor, ATSU-ASDOH, was a member of the joint American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology and American Academy of
Orofacial Pain committee that developed the position statement on recommendations for imaging of the temporomandibular joint.

Jessica Corrick, MHA, operations assistant, A.T. Still Research Institute, ATSU, received a doctor of health administration degree from ATSU-CGHS.

Wayne Cottam, DMD, MS, associate professor and vice dean, ATSU-ASDOH; Maureen Perry, DDS, MPA, MAEd, professor and associate dean, advanced education & strategic partnerships, ATSU-ASDOH; and Marc Shlossman, DDS, MS, associate professor, ATSU-ASDOH, were nominated and accepted for fellowship in the American College of Dentists.

Michael Cramberg, lab manager, anatomy, ATSU-KCOM, received a master of public health degree from ATSU-CGHS.

Jeffrey Davis, DO, CMD, assistant dean, clinical affairs, ATSU-KCOM, was elected as the American Osteopathic Association’s (AOA) first vice president. He was appointed to serve as AOA’s liaison to the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine for 2022-23. He was also appointed to serve on the Committee for AOA Governance and Organizational Structure, AOA’s Bureau of Membership, and AOA’s Audit Committee.

Sohini Dhar, BDS, MPH, adjunct assistant professor, public health, ATSU-CGHS, was elected to the Board of Texas Oral Health Coalition, a statewide nonprofit whose mission is to lead efforts to achieve optimal oral health across the lifespan.

Robert Ehrlich, director, facilities/plant operations, ATSU, received the Distinguished Service Award during the annual Missouri campus Employee Recognition & Award Ceremony. Ehrlich retired from ATSU in July 2022, after more than 28 years of service.

Brittani Freund, PT, DPT, ATC, LAT, adjunct faculty, kinesiology, ATSU-CGHS, received the ATSU-CGHS 2022 Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Award for the Master of Science in Kinesiology program.

Christina Garcia, PhD, RN, adjunct faculty, nursing, ATSU-CGHS, received the ATSU-CGHS 2022 Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Award for the Doctor of Nursing Practice program.

Jaana Gold, DDS, PhD, MPH, CPH, professor, public health-dental emphasis, ATSU-CGHS, received the Michael Samuels Impact Award.
David Greaves, DDS, assistant professor and assistant director, comprehensive care unit 2, ATSU-MOSDOH, received the Elsie Gaber Compassion and Integrity Award during the St. Louis Dental Center Employee Recognition and Award Ceremony.

Victoria Green, MS, RDH, dental hygiene instructor, ATSU-ASDOH, received a master of public health degree with dental emphasis from ATSU-CGHS.

B. Henry Han, PhD, professor, pharmacology, ATSU-KCOM, received the A.T. Still Staff Award for Excellence in Teaching for Basic Sciences during the annual Missouri campus Employee Recognition & Award Ceremony.

Lori Haxton, MA, vice president, student affairs, ATSU, was named chair for American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine’s Council on Student Affairs.

Alan Haynie, RRT, adjunct faculty, physician assistant studies, ATSU-ASHS, received a master of education in health professions degree from ATSU-CGHS.

Larry Hearld, PhD, MHA, adjunct faculty, health education, ATSU-CGHS, received the ATSU-CGHS 2022 Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Award for the Doctor of Education in Health Professions program.

Scott Howell, DMD, MPH, FSCD, associate professor and director, public health dentistry & teledentistry, ATSU-ASDOH, completed the Atlantic Fellows for Health Equity fellowship at George Washington University and is now a Senior Atlantic Fellow for Health Equity.

Deanna Hunsaker, DHEd, MBA, assistant vice president, enrollment services, ATSU, was selected as a reviewer for the Higher Learning Commission Peer Corps.

Heather Johnson, MEd, RDH, and Yvette Thornton, MPH, RDH, co-directors for dentistry in the community, ATSU-ASDOH, received funding for the ninth consecutive year from Delta Dental Foundation for their Smiles Across Pinal County Sealant Program. The $50,000 grant has helped them provide sealants for at-risk and underserved children.

Pamela Kays, PT, DPT, EdD, assistant professor and director, curriculum, physical therapy, ATSU-ASHS, received the 2022 Junior Faculty of the Year award during the annual ATSU-ASHS faculty assembly.

Dave Koenecke, DC, assistant vice president, admissions, ATSU, was named chair for American Dental Education Association Sections on Admissions, Financial Aid, and Student Affairs.
Tatyana Kondrashova, PhD, professor of family medicine & community health, advisor for Point Care Ultrasound Society, ATSU-KCOM, was named Advisor of the Year by ATSU Student Life.

Satish Kumar, DMD, MDSc, MS, professor and director, periodontics, ATSU-ASDOH, was nominated and selected for the 2022-23 American Dental Education Association Leadership Institute, a yearlong program designed to develop the most promising individuals at academic dental institutions to become future leaders in dental and higher education.

Laurie Latvis, DHA, adjunct faculty, health administration, ATSU-CGHS, received the ATSU-CGHS 2022 Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Award for the Doctor of Health Administration program.

Richelle Lee, osteopathic academic coordinator, osteopathic manipulative medicine, ATSU-KCOM, received the Missouri campus Employee Excellence Award for the second quarter of 2022.

Greg Loeben, PhD, MA, associate professor, public health, ATSU-CGHS, received the ATSU-CGHS 2022 Professor of the Year award. Dr. Loeben also received a master of public health degree from ATSU-CGHS.

Brenae Maddix, MPH, education specialist, ATSU-SOMA, received the Diversity Awareness Program (DAP) Award during the annual Arizona campus Employee Recognition & Award Ceremony.

Tannaz Malekzadeh, DMD, MAEd, assistant professor, ATSU-ASDOH, received the American Academy of Periodontology Foundation Fellowship to attend the Institute for Teaching & Learning in the Health Professions.

Shanu Markand, PhD, assistant professor, anatomy, ATSU-KCOM, received the Max Gutensohn Outstanding Teacher Award for the first-year curriculum during the ATSU Student Government Association awards ceremony.

Eric Matthews, PhD, MS, professor, health sciences, ATSU-CGHS, received the ATSU-CGHS 2021 Professor of the Year award.

Mary-Katherine McNatt, DrPH, MPH, MCHES, CPH, COI, professor and chair, public health, ATSU-CGHS, received her human rights consultant certification by the U.S. Institute of Diplomacy and Human Rights.
Vera Mitchell, MBA, academic advisor, ATSU-CGHS, received the ATSU-CGHS Outstanding Employee Award.

Jill Moore, MHA, adjunct faculty, public health, received the ATSU-CGHS 2022 Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Award for the Master of Public Health program.

Jeffrey Morgan, DO, EdD, MA, CS, FACOI, associate professor, ATSU-SOMA, received the Distinguished Service Award during the annual Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association Awards.

Lisa Norman, project manager, research support, ATSU, received the Missouri campus Employee Excellence Award for the first quarter of 2022.

Andrea O’Brien, MS, director, residential admissions, ATSU, was named chair for American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine’s Council of Osteopathic Medical Admissions Officers.

Melinda Orskog, clinical quality manager, clinic business office, ATSU-KCOM, received a master of health administration degree from ATSU-CGHS.

Jae Hyun Park, DMD, PhD, MSD, MS, professor and chair, postgraduate orthodontics, ATSU-ASDOH, was recognized as the top expert in the world in orthodontic anchorage procedures by Expertscape.

Maureen Perry, DDS, MPA, MAEd, professor and associate dean, advanced education & strategic partnerships, ATSU-ASDOH, was appointed chair of the grant awards committee for the Alliance for Oral Health Across Borders. She is also a member of the board. In addition, Dr. Perry and Ann Eshenaar Spolarich, PhD, RDH, professor and assistant dean, research, ATSU-ASDOH, received a Dental Trade Alliance Foundation grant titled “Health Care Integration: Improving Oral Health Through Systemic Change” for $25,000. The project will study a new healthcare delivery model that places a physician assistant in a dental clinic.

Jeromea Pollock, MS, adjunct faculty, kinesiology, ATSU-CGHS, completed the Course Design Institute through ATSU’s Teaching & Learning Center.

Barbara Polstein, DO, assistant professor, ATSU-SOMA, received the Excellence in Osteopathic Medical Education Award during the annual Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association Awards.
Jennifer Radziak, OTD, OTR/L, CHT, assistant professor and program director, occupational therapy, ATSU-ASHS, received the 2022 Service of the Year award during the annual ATSU-ASHS faculty assembly.

Clarissa Rodriguez, senior administrative assistant, diversity & inclusion, ATSU, received the Arizona campus Employee Excellence Award for the first quarter of 2022.

Teri Rorie, administrative assistant for audiology, advisor of Student Academy of Audiology, ATSU-ASHS, was named Advisor of the Year by ATSU Student Life.

Marc Shlossman, DDS, MS, associate professor, ATSU-ASDOH, was named president of the Arizona Section of the American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research.

Julie Speer, PhD, MS, instructional designer, Teaching & Learning Center, ATSU, received the Diversity Awareness Program (DAP) Award during the annual Arizona campus Employee Recognition & Award Ceremony.

Ann Eshenaur Spolarich, PhD, RDH, professor and assistant dean, research, ATSU-ASDOH, was installed as vice president of the International Association of Dental Research Oral Health Research Group. In addition, she received the inaugural Standout Seven award from the American Dental Hygienists’ Association in recognition of her contributions to oral health research.

Sarah Thomas, MSW, LCSW, director, behavioral health & wellness, counseling, ATSU, received a doctor of education in health professions degree from ATSU-CGHS.

Susan Thomas, MSEd; Louise Smith, MA; and Sue McDaniel, MS, instructional designers, along with Mary-Katherine McNatt, DrPH, MPH, MCHES, CPH, COI, professor and chair, public health, ATSU-CGHS, received notable recognition for their work on a Pan American Health Organization and Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health joint course development project. This grant-funded, multi-module course, launching in the Americas later this year, is the first dual-language (Spanish and English) course developed at ATSU-CGHS.

Jesse Thompson, EMT, simulation equipment specialist, physician assistant studies, ATSU-ASHS, received a master of education in health professions degree from ATSU-CGHS.
Tessa Tibben, DHSc, MS, PA-C, assistant professor, physician assistant studies, ATSU-ASHS, received the Diversity Awareness Program (DAP) Award during the annual Arizona campus Employee Recognition & Award Ceremony.

Melanie Tidman, DHSc, MA, OTR/L, adjunct faculty, health sciences, ATSU-CGHS, received the ATSU-CGHS 2022 Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Award for the Doctor of Health Sciences program.

Robin Tritt, RDH, administrative assistant, speech-language pathology, ATSU-ASHS, received the Arizona campus Employee Excellence Award for the second quarter of 2022.

Caroline VanSickle, PhD, MA, assistant professor, anatomy, ATSU-KCOM, received the Diversity Awareness Program (DAP) Award during the annual Missouri campus Employee Recognition & Award Ceremony.

Megan Weemer, DHSc, MCHES, assistant professor, health sciences, ATSU-CGHS, and her former colleagues received the Interdisciplinary Award for the Center of Civic Engagement at Illinois State University for their research and collaboration surrounding school wellness environments in a Midwestern school district.

Mitzi Wasden, DDS, MS, assistant professor, ATSU-ASDOH, received the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Foundation Leadership in Education and Administration Scholarship to attend the Institute for Teaching & Learning in the Health Professions.

Margaret Wilson, DO, dean and professor, ATSU-KCOM, was named the 2022 Robert A. Kistner Award recipient by the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine and its Board of Directors in recognition of her significant contributions to osteopathic medical education throughout her career.

Josefine Wolfe, PhD, MPH, assistant professor, public health, ATSU-CGHS, received the American Dental Hygienists Association Public Health Award.