

Congratulations to Kea Turner on her selection as 2012 Presidential Management Fellow



Second year MPH student Kea Turner has been selected as a 2012 Presidential Management Fellow (<http://www.pmf.gov>) by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

The fellowship application process is long and competitive, beginning with a September application, followed by an online assessment of situational judgment, leadership and writing skills for the first round candidates and a panel interview in Washington, D.C. with federal agency representatives for the finalists. In 2011, more than 9,100 graduate students applied to the PMF Program, and only 628 achieved 'finalist' status.

“I am really excited about all the learning opportunities the PMF offers,” Turner said. “The fellowship is centered on leadership development. There are built-in opportunities to attend trainings on congressional operations, complete rotations within other federal agencies and take additional coursework on topics of my choosing.”

Three other current UNC public health students also were selected for the Fellowship: **Sara Crocoll** and **Laura Tison**, in the Public Health Leadership Program, and **Paul Ebohon**, in the Department of Environmental Sciences and Engineering.

Jo Anne Earp, ScD, professor and chair of health behavior and health education at the UNC public health school, is Turner's academic adviser and nominator for the award.

“Our school of public health attracts exceptional students year after year – students with leadership ability, strong analytical skills, the capacity to set high goals and the passion to meet them, all undergirded by the drive to make a difference in the health of the public,” Earp said. “To be selected as a Presidential Management Fellow, however, goes above and beyond even these ‘usual’ qualities of a UNC public health student; it is a very special mark of distinction. PM fellows are absolutely the next generation of leaders in the field. The Gillings School of Global Public Health is therefore exceedingly proud to claim not one or two, but *four*, PMFs this year!”

Turner said she was grateful for the opportunity and confident the experience would change her life for the better. “Throughout the application process, I was privileged to meet an amazing group of student leaders,” she said. “I look forward to working with and learning from the other fellows and being part of the movement to expand health care access.”

In recent years, two other Health Behavior and Health Education students have been selected for the PMF: **Jessica Bates**, MPH (2008) and **Anna Kathryn Gieselman**, MPH (2010), both of whom served their fellowships at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.