

Public Health Guidance U Receive by URL (“GURU”) Program (Public Health Professional Mentor Program)

What is a Public Health “GURU?”

A Public Health “GURU” is a public health or other health professional who is interested in being a mentor or resource for students and young professionals. Your role is to offer advice on your field or other information that is requested.

Contact Information						
Date submitted	7/17/09					
Name	Craig Wethington					
Credentials	MPH					
Title	Assistant Director, Wellness Programs					
Organization	Ohio Department of Education, Office of Safety, Health & Nutrition					
Address	25 S. Front Street, Mail Stop 303					
City, State, Zip	Columbus, OH 43215					
Phone	614-466-6837					
Fax	614-752-7613					
E-mail	Craig.wethington@ode.state.oh.us					
County	Franklin					
Organization web site	www.ode.state.oh.us					
Job category (you may indicate more than one. Please offer further explanation in the “professional background” section below.):	<input type="checkbox"/>	Administrator	<input type="checkbox"/>	Laboratory worker	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vital statistician
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Academician	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lawyer	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bioterrorism coordinator	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mental health specialist	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Counselor	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nurse	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dentist	<input type="checkbox"/>	Physician	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dietician/nutritionist	<input type="checkbox"/>	Program coordinator	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Epidemiologist	<input type="checkbox"/>	Researcher	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Health economist	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sanitarian	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Health educator	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social worker	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Informatics specialist	<input type="checkbox"/>	Veterinarian	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Background Information						
When started in public health (or # years in public health)	11 years					
Educational background	BS – Health Promotion – University of North Carolina at Charlotte MPH – The Ohio State University					
Professional background	Health Educator then promoted to Director of Health Education at the Fairfield Department of Health in Lancaster, OH. Health Educator and Director for the American Cancer Society, Ohio Division working on cancer prevention and detection initiatives.					
Association memberships	Ohio Society for Public Health Education, Ohio State Planning Committee for Health Education in Ohio Ohio Association of Health and Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance American School Health Association Society of State Directors of Health, Physical Education and Recreation					
Professional Information						
Top three tips—if you	1. Become a member of professional organizations for networking, job					

are looking for a job in my field	<p>boards, and meetings for continued professional development.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteer. Volunteering for a non-profit/voluntary health organization can lead to employment opportunities. When interviewing focus on selling your knowledge, skills and competencies. Employers understand you have limited job experience. They are looking for the best person who they think can do the job and most likely making their decision on whether they think you have the knowledge, skills and competencies to do the job well.
Top three tips—if you are already in my field (from my experience)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in professional development. Become active on boards or committees of professional organizations. This is a good way to build your leadership skills, decision making and communication skills, and learn from others. Be willing to try new approaches to old problems. Change can be challenging and rewarding.
Top three tips—if you are looking for great resources (web sites, book, journals, etc.)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Community Toolbox - http://ctb.ku.edu/en/ The Community Guide to Preventive Services - http://www.thecommunityguide.org/index.html Book: <i>Trying Hard is Not Good Enough</i> by Mark Friedman
My expertise is in the following areas:	Physical Activity, Nutrition, Tobacco Prevention, Cancer Prevention and Control, School Health, Worksite Health Promotion
Mentor Contact Information	
I would be willing to do the following (you may indicate more than one):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meet with you
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Talk with you on the phone
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Correspond with you via e-mail
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Have you “shadow” me for a day
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Be a preceptor for you on a project
	<input type="checkbox"/> I do not wish to be contacted but just wanted to offer the useful tips above
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (indicate)
How to contact me (you may indicate more than one):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phone
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E-mail
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fax
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mail
	<input type="checkbox"/> Please do not contact me
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (indicate)