

The Daniel S. Blumenthal Annual Public Health Summit
“**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TO ACHIEVE HEALTH EQUITY -**
Community Service, Research and Scholarship, Teaching and Learning”
Tuesday and Wednesday
April 7-8, 2015

Community Engagement - "...the process of working collaboratively with groups of people who are affiliated by geographic proximity, special interests or similar situations with respect to issues affecting their well-being." Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Background: The Morehouse School of Medicine (MSM) Annual Public Health Summit is held in conjunction with the National Public Health Week. The first National Public Health Week was established by President Clinton in 1995 to recognize the contributions of public health and raise awareness about issues that are important to improving the public's health in communities across the United States. Each year, the National Public Health Week is observed the first full week of April.

The MSM Department of Community Health and Preventive Medicine (CHPM) established Public Health Day in 2007 to locally observe of National Public Health Week. Public Health Day at MSM is intended to educate public health students, medical students, residents, physicians, public health professionals, researchers and community members about emerging public health issues. To date, MSM CHPM has held public health summits focused on emergency preparedness, cancer, HIV/AIDS, cardiovascular health, childhood obesity, blood disorders, and violence prevention.

In 2010, the MSM CHPM held a Festschrift conference in honor of Public Health Day and declared all future Public Health Day activities as the Dr. Daniel S. Blumenthal Annual Public Health Summit to honor the 40 year legacy of Dr. Blumenthal's remarkable contributions to medicine, community health and community empowerment. Dr. Blumenthal served as the MSM Department Chair of Community Health and Preventive Medicine for over 25 years and has dedicated his life as a physician, teacher and public health professional, giving public service to communities across the world focusing on the eradication of diseases, the promotion of health and the elimination of health disparities.

2015 Dr. Daniel S. Blumenthal Public Health Summit: The 2015 Dr. Daniel S. Blumenthal Public Health Summit is intended to inform medical residents, students, healthcare providers, researchers, public health professionals, health and social service agency leaders, policy decision makers, medical residents, students, community-at-large, and community leaders of the importance of community engagement in improving health and healthcare, reducing risk factors and eliminating disease, mobilizing local communities for actions, and promoting healthy living for individuals, families and communities across the life course.

Objectives of the 2015 Public Health Summit:

- To provide an opportunity for MSM and the CHPM faculty, medical residents and students to engage with community partners in a day of service of planned, ongoing community activities as a means of "showcasing" and informing the broader community of promising strategies and successful practices to reduce poor health conditions and promote health in local communities.
- To identify community programs and resources which strengthen local community capacity to promote healthy living through MSM and CHPM faculty and student collaborations of service, research, teaching, and learning.

- To disseminate evidence-based strategies and best practices and effective implementation of community engagement approaches in local communities.