

A young woman with brown hair tied back, wearing a white lab coat over a blue shirt, is looking through a Leica microscope. She has a tattoo on her neck and is wearing a small diamond earring. The background is a blurred laboratory setting.

WILLOW WALLACE

College “didn’t seem like an option” for Willow, who left home in her teens to escape poverty and a difficult home life. But after enrolling in Portland State’s biology program and studying infectious diseases, she’s poised to be among the first class of graduates from the new School of Public Health.

A NEW GENERATION OF HEALTH LEADERS



SCHOOL OF
PUBLIC HEALTH

A PASSION FOR HEALTH EQUALITY

Two of Oregon's leading universities have joined forces to educate the next generation of public health leaders, with a vision of ending health disparities in Oregon and around the globe. This unique collaboration combines the strengths of a world-class academic health center with the deep community involvement and diversity of the state's urban research university. Our vision is to become the premier destination in Oregon for students of all backgrounds who want to enter the health field and improve lives in their communities.

OHSU's groundbreaking work in medicine and PSU's nationally acclaimed programs in urban affairs, public policy and sustainability make us natural partners in this endeavor. Our graduates will emerge with the skills and experience to be tomorrow's health leaders, thinkers and creators.

BRIDGING THE HEALTH GAP

Our School of Public Health is led by Dean David Bangsberg, who has seen first-hand the way structural violence and economic barriers create a chasm between the health haves and have-nots. He has devoted his career to bridging that gap.

While studying to be a neurosurgeon at Johns Hopkins Medical School in 1986, Bangsberg began to hear about a new disease, AIDS, that was killing gay men, drug users and their sexual partners. He changed gears, he says, "to focus on frontline urban health care." Since then, his passion for delivering health to underserved communities has taken him from the streets of East Baltimore to sub-Saharan Africa and beyond.

His accomplishments include creating one of the leading research programs on health disparities among the urban poor, directing the global health program at Massachusetts General Hospital and serving as a professor at Harvard.

A native of Portland, Bangsberg says he is elated to be back in his home state. "This is where we can channel the energy and creativity of Oregon youth to improve global health," he says. "I especially look forward to the ideas not yet imagined."

DEAN'S SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Dean Bangsberg established the fund to ensure a diverse student body that represents communities with the greatest health disparities. For them, the field of health care offers a broad range of meaningful and rewarding career opportunities in one of the fastest growing sectors of our economy. A scholarship is their entry point.

"I was so impressed with the quality and diversity of students at our School of Public Health that my wife and I became the first donors to the Dean's Scholarship Fund," Bangsberg says. "I hope you will join us in providing scholarships for students who need the most financial help to become tomorrow's health care leaders."

Quick facts

1,200+
UNDERGRADUATES

250+
GRADUATE STUDENTS

100+
FACULTY

16
DEGREES IN
PUBLIC HEALTH



DAVID BANGSBERG,
dean of School of Public
Health. Former Harvard
professor returns to his
roots in Portland.