
PRESS RELEASE

1889 Foundation
Susan Mann
Office: (814) 532-0100 x3
Cell: (814) 244-8049
smann@1889foundation.org

Jefferson College of Population Health
Gianna DeMedio
Office: (215) 955-5507
Cell: (215) 873-1760
Gianna.DeMedio@jefferson.edu

Trina Thompson, DrPH, BSN named executive director for the 1889 Foundation-Jefferson Center for Population Health

(JOHNSTOWN, Pa.) - Trina Thompson, DrPH, BSN, has been named the executive director for the 1889 Foundation-Jefferson Center for Population Health in Johnstown. The Center was established last year through a \$7.5 million, five-year gift from the 1889 Foundation to the Jefferson College of Population Health of Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia. In addition to her role at the Center, Thompson also serves as the Victor Heiser, MD, Associate Professor in Population Health.

In her new position, Thompson will establish the Center's operational framework and research agenda and position the Center as a community resource for improving population health. The Center's mission is to identify, quantify, develop and evaluate strategies that improve the health of the citizens of Cambria and Somerset Counties.

"We are extremely gratified to have found a professional of Trina's stature in our own backyard for this vitally important position," said Susan Mann, executive director of the 1889 Foundation. "Her training and experience cover the spectrum of public health. Further, she has lived and worked in western Pennsylvania her entire career, which means she knows the area well and can hit the ground running."

"This new Center, the result of an outstanding partnership between the 1889 Foundation and our College, is the first of its kind in the country," said David Nash, dean of the Jefferson College of Population Health. "We look forward to working together, in the heart of Pennsylvania, to make a difference in the lives of our fellow citizens."

PRESS RELEASE

Thompson has more than 30 years of experience in public health and healthcare, in academic, business, and clinical settings. Originally trained as a registered nurse, she later went on to get a master's and doctorate in public health from the University of Pittsburgh. She has held several consultant positions with Highmark, Inc., and the University of Pittsburgh, and taught college-level courses at Duquesne, the University of Pittsburgh, and St. Francis University.

In Thompson's most recent position, she developed and implemented the new Public Health Program at St. Francis University's School of Health Sciences, where she also served as the program's director. Throughout her career, she has published numerous peer-reviewed academic articles and abstracts and collaborated on many grant-funded research projects, most focusing on cardiovascular disease.

"I grew up on a farm in Blair County, and rural health has been an interest of mine since I was very, very young," Thompson said. "I am very impressed with the 1889 Foundation for its commitment to the community. This initiative will empower people to improve their health, and I'm looking forward to being part of it."

The Center is the first of its kind established in a small community rather than a large metropolitan area. It is expected that the work of the Center will provide a national model for how population health interventions can work in rural communities. Specific goals of the Center are as follows:

- Connect prevention, wellness and behavioral healthcare delivery in Cambria and Somerset Counties.
- Identify socio-economic and cultural factors that influence the health of the population.
- Develop policies that address the impact of these factors.
- Use data analysis, or "big data," to design social and community interventions.
- Recommend innovative solutions to complex public health issues.

###

The 1889 Foundation

The 1889 Foundation was founded in 1993 as the Conemaugh Health Foundation and served until 2014 as the philanthropic arm of Conemaugh Health System. When the System was purchased by Duke LifePoint Healthcare in 2015, it became a for-profit organization. Conemaugh Health Foundation was thus reborn as the 1889 Foundation and now operates as a completely independent 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. The new name instantly connects

PRESS RELEASE

the Foundation to two things that are central to the region's rich history: the Great Johnstown Flood of 1889 and the hospital born from the world's generosity after that disaster. The mission of the 1889 Foundation continues to support innovative programs and initiatives that improve and transform the overall health and wellness of the region. For more information, visit www.1889foundation.org.

The Jefferson College of Population Health

The Jefferson College of Population Health (JCPH) was established in 2008 as part of Thomas Jefferson University, a leading academic health center in Philadelphia. The first of its kind in the country, the College is dedicated to exploring the policies and forces that define the health and well-being of populations. Jefferson College of Population Health provides exemplary graduate academic programming in population health, public health, health policy, healthcare quality and safety, and applied health economics and outcomes research. Its programs are enhanced by evidence-based research, continuing education and professional development offerings, and publications. For more information, visit www.Jefferson.edu/PopulationHealth