Moving Kids Towards Success: School Policies that Support Active, Attentive Students

Wednesday May 14, 2014
11:00 am – 12:30 pm (Pacific)

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Amanda Wilson is a Project Manager and Strategic Engagement Coordinator for Active Living Research (ALR), overseeing multiple projects and contributing to the communication, dissemination and capacity-building efforts of the program. Amanda manages ALR’s special supplement journals, provides technical assistance to grantees and plays a lead role in the coordination of ALR’s webinars. With a Master’s Degree in Parks and Recreation, she provides a valuable connection to programs within this field and seeks to develop new partnerships across multiple sectors. Amanda also plays a key role in coordinating ALR’s annual conference, which convenes up to 350 researchers, advocates and policymakers from a wide variety of disciplines to present and learn the latest advancements on environmental and policy issues related to physical activity. She is an advocate in her own community for safer bicycling and pedestrian facilities and rides her bike to work (almost) daily.

Website:  http://activelivingresearch.org
Agenda

Introduction
What is physical activity policy?

National Level
What are some key research findings and successful programming?

District Level
What are the associations between physical activity policy and fitness?

School Level
Implementing state level legislation at the school level: outcomes and challenges
Introducing our presenters:

Darla Castelli
Abigail Gamble
Emma Sanchez-Vaznaugh
Abigail Gamble is a New Jersey native who has lived in Mississippi since arriving in 2004 at the University of Mississippi to earn a master’s degree in Health Promotion and a doctoral degree in Health and Kinesiology. An early career investigator in the Office of Population Health and instructor in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC), Abigail is most passionate about reducing child health disparities in Mississippi, particularly in the Mississippi Delta region. Her dissertation project examined associations between children’s in-school physical activity and weight status, and in-school physical activity policy and the school built environment in elementary schools in the Mississippi Delta. In late 2012, the investigation was identified by Active Living Research to receive supplemental funding to translate the project’s outcomes to policy and action in the state of Mississippi. Gamble is dedicated to her career in academia and has a research agenda focused on reducing pediatric health disparities in Mississippi, childhood obesity, and co-morbid chronic diseases, which are believed to be in large part fueled by a multitude of intertwined environmental and social inequities.

Website:  [www.umc.edu](http://www.umc.edu)
Darla M. Castelli, PhD  
Associate Professor  
Department of Kinesiology and Health Education  
University of Texas at Austin

Darla M. Castelli, Ph.D. has been working with school-aged youth in physical activity settings for more than 20 years, leading several physical activity interventions including FIT Kids, Active + Active Healthy = Forever Fit, Fitness4Everyone, and Kinetic Kidz. Dr. Castelli has received teaching awards in both the public school, Maine Physical Education Teacher of the Year, and higher education, University of Illinois Teaching Excellence Award. As a fellow in the AAHPERD Research Consortium and past Young Scholar award recipient from NAKPEHE and AEISEP, her research focuses on the effects of physical activity on cognitive and brain health in children which has been funded by the National Institutes of Health, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, American Dietetic Foundation, and U.S. Department of Education. She has presented her work at U.S. Congress and Senate Briefings in Washington, DC and was recently a member of the Institute of Medicine Committees on Fitness Measures and Health Outcomes in Youth and Physical Activity, Physical Education, and the Cognitive Benefits for Children.  
Website:  [www.edb.utexas.edu/education/departments/khe](http://www.edb.utexas.edu/education/departments/khe)
Emma Sanchez-Vaznaugh serves as affiliated faculty at the Center on Social Disparities in Health and the Center on Health and Risk in Minority Youth and Adults, University of California, San Francisco and is an associate professor in the Department of Health Education at San Francisco State University (SFSU), where she teaches in the Masters of Public Health degree program. Her research focuses on two interrelated strands: social inequalities in health and the extent to which environments and policies impact (or not) population patterns of disease overall and according to race or ethnicity, migration and socioeconomic status. Her research includes studies on the socioeconomic gradient in body weight across racial or ethnic and immigrant status; school-based nutrition and physical education policies and population patterns of child fitness and body weight. Current research also involves investigations on Latina/White patterns in birth weight, the role of nearby school environments in the variability of children's health, and racial or ethnic disparities in childhood obesity. Dr. Sanchez-Vaznaugh recently served on the Institute of Medicine Committee on Physical Activity and Physical Education in the School Environment.

Website:  http://healthed.sfsu.edu/people/faculty/emma-sanchez-suet
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Thank you to our presenters and moderator:

Darla Castelli
Abigail Gamble
Emma Sanchez-Vaznaugh
Amanda Wilson
And thank you to our behind-the-scenes people!

Joanna Hathaway

Tonya Hammond
Thank you to our co-sponsor:

Active Living Research
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School Policies that Support Active, Attentive Students

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