

ADAMS CHAIR OF EXCELLENCE

IN HEALTH CARE SERVICES

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ABOUT THE ADAMS CHAIR HOLDER

Dr. M. Jo Edwards has served as the holder of the Adams Chair of Excellence in Health Care Services at Middle Tennessee State University since 1992. She earned her doctorate from the University of Florida, her master's from the University of Memphis, and her bachelor's from the University of Alabama–Birmingham. Edwards is a certified health education specialist (CHES) and a medical imaging specialist.

In 1993, the Center for Health and Human Services (CHHS) at MTSU was approved by the Tennessee Board of Regents to function under Edwards' direction. Through the CHHS, Edwards has executed many externally funded projects and contracts during the past 25 years focusing on improving the health of Tennesseans, improving health care workforce development, and engaging in international health projects. These contracts/grants have totaled almost \$10 million.

As CHHS director, she engaged faculty and staff at MTSU to work with the Tennessee Department of Health, Tennessee Hospital Association, volunteer health organizations, and other state and federal agencies to improve the health of the citizens of Tennessee.

Edwards was appointed by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission in 2003 to serve as founding executive director of the Tennessee Institute of Public Health (TNIPH). She currently serves on the board of directors and as a consultant to TNIPH. Additionally, she has been co-director of the Rutherford County Wellness Council; a founding and current board member of the Rutherford County Primary Care and HOPE Clinic; founding director of the Tennessee Obesity Task Force, resulting in the State Obesity Plan; a founding member of the Tennessee Deans and Directors of Allied Health; and a member of the THA Rural Health Partnership, THA Health Workforce Roundtable, the Department of Education Health Science and Technology Advisory Board, and Vanderbilt's Nuclear Medicine Technology Advisory Board.

Active professionally, Edwards has served on many state, local, and national committees and boards. She is published and has been on three national and international editorial review boards for professional journals.

Her international experience includes consulting in Europe and the Middle East. Edwards resided in Kuwait for two years and worked for three summers in South Africa in squatter settlements on issues such as AIDs, health, and sanitation. Most recently, she spent a month in Bangkok, Thailand, looking at medical tourism.

At MTSU, Edwards also has supported the preprofessional health advising office, advising Health Science teacher preparation students and offering undergraduate courses in Introduction to the Health Professions and graduate courses in Global Health.

ENDOWMENT OF THE ADAMS CHAIR

The late Dr. Carl Adams and Mrs. Jenny Mae Adams clearly understood that the delivery of health care and human services poses complex challenges. Throughout their extensive careers providing health care to middle Tennessee residents, they knew that these challenges might begin with the individual but could impact public policy as well as the social structure of the entire community. Dr. Adams raised the question of how the University could maximize the opportunities for continued growth and development in the human service and health professions.

Dr. Adams' concern for the quality and quantity of health care professionals to address these concerns led him to provide the funds to establish the Adams Chair of Excellence in Health Care Services. This chair was established to provide a platform for MTSU to engage an interdisciplinary group of scholars, in partnership with the community, to forge solutions to these challenges.

The initiating Advisory Group for the chair laid the foundation for this interdisciplinary approach, to stimulate interactive research and service within the academic and broader community. Dr. Ruth Elliot (Nursing) served as initial consultant in 1989, followed by Dr. Peter Dual in 1990, and then Dr. Ron Aday (Sociology) in 1991 as internal director of chair activities.

(pictured left) President Sidney McPhee with Dr. M. Jo Edwards

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Chair partners with Kuwait University for Allied Health Summer Enrichment Program

Edwards, Ed.D., arrived at MTSU with a \$250,000 grant/contract from the government of Kuwait to provide advanced clinical training for recent graduates of Kuwait University in radiologic sciences, medical laboratory sciences, physical therapy, and health information management. The graduates practiced at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, the Alvin C. York Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Murfreesboro, the University of Florida, and the Florida Hospital for three months to experience health care delivery in a fee-for-service model as opposed to the socialized medicine model of their training.

(pictured above) Edwards with Dr. Hussein Al-Mahmoud (l), Kuwait University vice president and Dr. Abdul-Latif Al-Bader, university president.

INTERNATIONAL

The Adams Chair of Excellence in Health Care Services at MTSU provides policymakers with data-driven evidence to inform decisions that affect health professionals, educators, employers, and the general public to promote a sustainable qualified health workforce. Examples of these decisions include the development of health workforce shortage designations, of new health professional schools and training programs, and of policies to encourage providers to practice in needed health care fields or underserved geographic areas.

As Adams Chair, Edwards initiated a collaboration between the deans and directors of allied health in the state and served as co-chair for several years. Serving on the Tennessee Hospital Association Workforce Roundtable, she developed workforce data sets on supply and demand for over 20 years, reported on shortages, served as a resource to the TBR, and produced documents tracking the workforce issues for the state.

The chair developed articulation programs in several allied health fields with MTSU such as Nuclear Medicine Technology, Diagnostic Medical Sonography, and Radiation Therapy Technology. The chair promoted the development of the health occupations teachers to increase the pipeline of students interested in the health professions in high school. A career map was developed for the Tennessee Workforce and Labor Economic Development Commission.



1992

Dr. M. Jo Edwards appointed Adams Chair holder, initially reports to Provost

Center for Health and Human Services (CHHS) proposed to MTSU to support Adams Chair's activities

Edwards serves as founding member of Rutherford County Primary Care and HOPE Clinic Board

1993

Dr. Adams funds strategic planning summit at Opryland Hotel to help lay out future directions for Adams Chair and CHHS

Chair relocates to new Cason-Kennedy Nursing Building from Murphy Center

Staff support, Linda League, shared between Adams Chair and NHC Chair in Nursing

1994

Publishes *Allied Health in Tennessee: Supply and Demand Study* to serve as a TBR statewide resource for career counseling, advisement, and program planning

Chair supports Health Sciences Preprofessional Advising program at MTSU
Adams Chair's involvement results in the development of the Introduction to the Health Professions course and the 3+1 affiliated programs in allied health.

- Nuclear Medicine**, affiliation with Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC), Nashville, and the University of Tennessee Hospital, Knoxville
- Radiation Therapy**, affiliated with VUMC
- Diagnostic Medical Sonography**, affiliated with VUMC
- Health Science Technology** high school pathway in Career and Technical Education, with state Department of Education



ALLIED HEALTH

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1995

Edwards focuses on developing partnerships

The CHHS collaborates with MTSU faculty, public agencies, and private not-for-profit organizations to create and implement programs designed to improve the health of the middle and greater Tennessee community. Within four different colleges, various departments and programs affiliated with the center share the common goal of preparing the health and human services workforce in Tennessee:

- Aging Studies
- Communication Disorders
- Department of Health and Human Performance (formerly HPERS)
- Department of Human Sciences
- Department of Psychology
- Department of Sociology
- Department of Social Work
- Graduate Studies in Gerontology and Health Care Management
- Preprofessional medical programs
- School of Nursing

1996

Health Science Technology programs developed in two Rutherford County high schools, creating a pipeline of students

Forms and develops Wellness Council of Rutherford County
The Adams Chair co-lead development of the council and began the first community diagnosis process to identify the health status of the county and potential risk reduction of the most prevalent health risks.

1997

Aging Studies program and Health Sciences minor approved
These programs provide an avenue for graduates who wish to work within long-term care facilities or go to graduate programs in Aging Studies.

1998

MTSU funds first Rutherford County Health Watch as resource for Community Health courses, Nursing, and Rutherford County Wellness Center

1999

CHHS produces first Directory of Tennessee Allied Health and Health Sciences Programs at state universities/community colleges



South Africa Squatter Settlement Research project started to develop sustainable clean water and sanitation, and later HIV prevention (2000–03)

The South Africa project, completed in August 2002, was administered through the MTSU Geography Department and included faculty from Geography, CHHS, Health and Human Performance, Nursing, and Industrial Studies. Conducted by MTSU, the University of Durban-Westville in South Africa, and Southern Illinois University, this three-year initiative developed a sustainable environmental management program of informal settlements and a health outreach program in HIV/AIDS prevention, both in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. The research, with Edwards and Dr. Hari P. Garbharhhan (Geography/Geology) as co-principal investigator, was funded by the Liaison Office for University Cooperation and Development, the U.S. Agency for International Development, and the White House Education for Development and Democracy Initiative.

Continuation of this effort has been sustained by the Rutherford Morning Breakfast Rotary in the Murfreesboro community. A fundraiser is held each year, funds are matched by International Rotary, and the work is done on site in Durban, South Africa, by the local Rotary.



PARTNERSHIPS

The Adams Chair has initiated or sat on the founding board of several groups and remains active in these.

Rutherford County Wellness Council—founding member

Rutherford County Primary Care and HOPE Clinic—founding member

Tennessee Rural Health Partnership

Tennessee Obesity Task Force

Tennessee Hospital Association Health Workforce Roundtable

Dean and Directors of Allied Health in Tennessee—founding member

Department of Education CTE Advisory Board

Tennessee Institute of Public Health—founding executive director

State Health Plan



Anti-Tobacco Summit for Youth

Adams Chair tobacco prevention programs culminated in a Tennessee Tobacco Summit that brought 200 youths from across the state involved in anti-tobacco use activities to the MTSU campus in September 2003. The summit, hosted by the Tennessee Department of Health, aimed to provide assistance to create a social environment supporting non-tobacco use and making it more difficult for underage tobacco use. MTV Road Rules cast member and anti-tobacco use advocate Yes Duffy (pictured) was a guest speaker at the event along with Dr. Victor Denoble, a former Phillip Morris employee; Katherine Klem, a nationally recognized youth advocate from Kentucky; and Jacob Baime, Tobacco-Free Kids Youth Advocate of the Year from Florida. The event involved training in drama, halftime shows, dance troops, and teaching to younger students.

(pictured above) Celebrity guest and anti-tobacco activist Yes Duffy from MTV's Road Rules giving closing remarks after his educational presentation.

2000

Health Sciences programs approved: Nuclear Medicine Technology, Radiation Therapy Technology, affiliated with VUMC

Former U.S. Vice President Al Gore teaches at MTSU, with CHHS assisting in development of the Community Development through the Lens of Families course

Recurring reports

- *Allied Health Supply and Demand Study*, second edition (Report funded by Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development and Tennessee Hospital Association)
- *Rutherford County Health Watch*, third edition
- *Tennessee Allied Health and Health Sciences Programs*

2001

A-B-C-1-2-3 Healthy Kids in TN Phase II educates daycare/preschool providers of healthy lifestyles to decrease risks of cancer and other lifestyle-associated diseases and conditions

2002

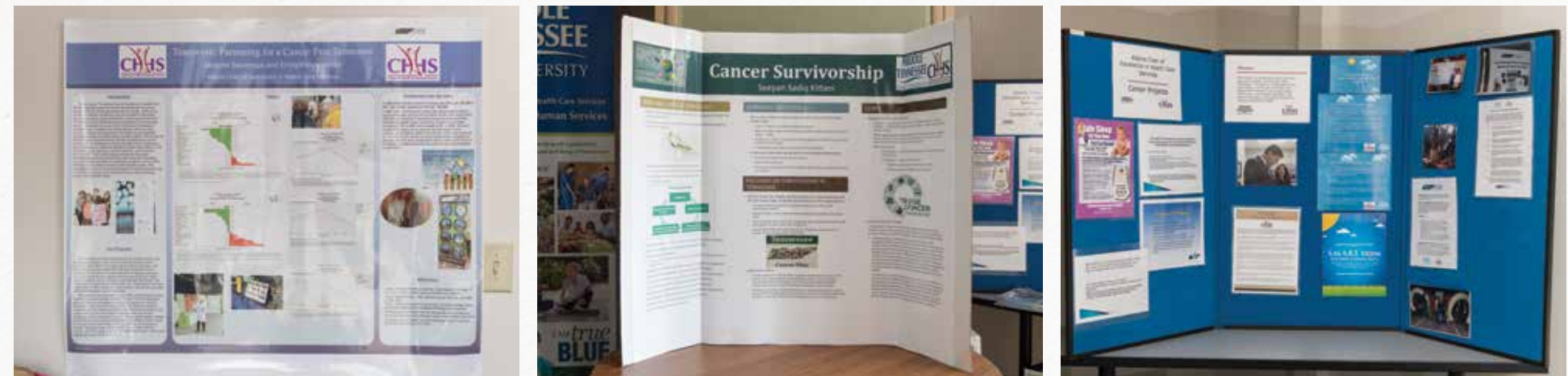
Conducts educational Community Diabetes Control Program for high-risk African-American community

The Primary Care and HOPE Clinic (PCHS) in Murfreesboro initially developed the Community Diabetes Control Program with a focus on the Hispanic community in Rutherford County. The CHHS, in partnership with PCHC, the Rutherford County Wellness Council, the faith-based community, and the Kleervu Lunchroom restaurant, continued the educational program in 2002–03 for the African-American community at high risk for diabetes.

Tobacco Use Prevention: Rutherford/Mid-Cumberland launches (Funded by Tennessee Department of Health, Tobacco Control Office, and Tennessee Institute of Public Health, \$21,500)

Creates public awareness campaigns for Tobacco Use Prevention Among Minority Youth

CHHS partnered with MTSU's College of Mass Communication (now Media and Entertainment) and the faith-based community in Rutherford County through a grant. This project focused on preventing the initiation of tobacco use among minority youth by promoting youth advocacy, empowerment, and public awareness campaigns.



Starts SMART Moms program to promote smoking cessation among pregnant women throughout Tennessee (2003–06)

Funded by the national March of Dimes (\$300,000 over three years), the Smart Mothers Are Resisting Tobacco (SMART Moms) program partnered the CHHS with the Tennessee Chapter of the March of Dimes and the Tennessee Department of Health Women, Infant, and Children offices across the state.

Project outcomes include:

- 13,285 WIC patients received counseling and smoking cessation resources during the four-year project
- 24.2% overall success rate for participants who received counseling and agreed to use the self-help guide vs. 20.9% for those who did not choose to use the self-help guide but did receive counseling—exceeding success rates previously found in similar settings (14%)
- Supported research that even brief tobacco cessation counseling (5 to 15 minutes) delivered by trained providers and coupled with pregnancy-specific self-help materials can increase cessation rates in women during pregnancy
- Also supported research that, when provided with adequate training and pregnancy-specific self-help materials, health care providers will more consistently counsel patients on smoking cessation during pregnancy

SMART MOMS RECOGNITION

The SMART Moms project was honored through two awards. The national Dr. Audrey Manley Award, never before presented and named for the former U.S. surgeon general and National March of Dimes Board of Trustees member, was presented to the SMART Moms project in October 2005. This award recognizes an exemplary program addressing the needs of mothers and babies. The Tennessee Chapter of the March of Dimes also was awarded the prestigious 2004 Chapter of the Year Award based on the SMART Moms project. Program results were presented at the American Public Health Association annual meeting in 2007. Edwards was PI, with Cindy Chafin as project coordinator.

2003

Produces Death Scene Investigation Project statewide training program for sudden unexpected infant and child deaths

This initiative partnered CHHS, Audio-Visual Services, and Continuing Studies at MTSU with the state medical examiner's office and the Tennessee Departments of Health (DOH) and Children's Services (DCS) to provide a program for those who train first responders—EMTs, police, firefighters—investigating sudden unexpected infant death.

Offers Health Sciences Teacher Preparation to help students in high and middle schools explore health career options

Edwards serves on the Tennessee Department of Education Advisory Board for Health Sciences and Technology and is campus advisor for HST teachers completing their degree/licensure requirements for Tennessee.

Begins Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program to protect youth in Tennessee

2004

Publishes Health Care Career Map handbook and website about allied health and nursing careers available and requirements

CHHS partnered with the Middle Tennessee Workforce Investment Board, the Nashville Career Advancement Center, and the Tennessee Hospital Association to assist individuals interested in a health care career. The Health Care Career Map handbook and website, updated in successive years, also serve as resources for school counselors and employers. The nine counties served are Davidson, Rutherford, Wilson, Robertson, Sumner, Cheatham, Williamson, Trousdale, and Dickson.

Center for Health Resource Development designed to recruit, retain, and ease workforce shortage of health care professionals in Tennessee

Edwards assists Workforce Data Collaborative Project to design a national database for allied health information, data collection, and study instruments



Good Health Looks Good—Folic Acid Every Day project educates adolescent women to increase supplements

Funded by the March of Dimes Tennessee Chapter, the Good Health Looks Good project educated young adolescent women about the importance of folic acid and vitamin supplementation, including the role folic acid plays in the prevention of birth defects and as part of an overall healthy lifestyle. Goals of were to increase the number of teen girls who are aware of the need for folic acid (400 mcg daily) and who take a folic acid supplement daily. Hispanics, African-Americans, and young women in rural regions were targeted during the second year of the project, as statistics show unfavorable birth outcomes for these groups, which may be improved through folic acid education and usage.

- Training for troop leaders, camp staff, and other volunteers began in 2002 through the Tennessee Folic Acid Council. Over 1,400 girls earned the folic badge or patch during 2003–04, with another 4,420 during 2005–07.
- During 2008–09, the last year of the grant, 121 girls who participated in workshop activities and earned folic acid badges or patches completed evaluations.

A poster on the program, presented by an MTSU Dietetics student who worked with the grant, won first place out of all student posters at the 2009 Tennessee Dietetics Association's annual meeting in Nashville.

The project has become self-sustaining through the Girl Scouts organization in middle Tennessee.



Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Needs Assessment created to determine the overall health and unmet needs of Tennessee women and children

This project, completed in June 2006, collected data including national and state statistical information, surveys of MCH professionals, and statewide focus groups with consumers of MCH services. Highlighted issues were content, timing, and availability of programs, as well as health care disparities and perceived barriers to receiving services. CHHS and the MTSU Sociology Department worked in partnership, with \$230,800 funding from the Tennessee Department of Health. Dr. Peter Heller and Edwards were co-PIs, and Carol M. Smith served as program coordinator.



Student Tobacco Outreach Prevention (STOP) program and summit offered to teens

STOP provided tobacco use prevention and cessation programs to high school students in nine counties—Campbell, Cocke, Grundy, Hardeman, Johnson, Lake, Meigs, Union, and Wayne. The program involved partnerships with the Tennessee Department of Health; the Tennessee Department of Education; THEC; and GEAR UP. CHHS coordinated activities and supervised STOP in the rural counties. The MTSU center also managed training meetings for staff across the state and coordinated a three-day student tobacco summit in June 2009.

2005

Cancer Control Program launched to compile and distribute information statewide that helps prevent cancer

2006

SIDS Education: Reducing Risk in Middle Tennessee offered to health department clients and day care providers in low-income communities

Funded by the March of Dimes Tennessee Chapter, the SIDS risk-reduction education expanded the second year to include high school students in consumer and health science classes, as well as high schools with day care centers for parenting teens.

Edwards serves as founding director of the Tennessee Institute of Public Health, created by THEC

Tobacco Use Prevention: Rutherford /Mid-Cumberland focuses on tobacco-free schools and youth-based organizations (completed June 2007)

2007

Adams Chair becomes part of the College of Behavioral and Health Sciences

Tennessee Obesity Task Force developed

Edwards, in collaboration with the American Heart Association and the Department of Health, formed a statewide coalition to address the critical issue of obesity in Tennessee. The group wrote a CDC grant that resulted in the state's first plan to address the state's obesity and chronic illnesses, *Tennessee Statewide Nutrition and Physical Activity Plan*. Edwards chaired the task force 2007–10.

2008

Begins diabetes education for United South and Eastern Tribes (USET)

This project, funded by the U.S. Department of Health and in partnership with the Office of Sponsored Research, was extended through June 2012 and totaled \$544,000.

2009

Cindy Rhea selected as grants developer (80%) for Adams Chair and CHHS

2010

KUC exhibit celebrates World Health Day with red ribbons for national AIDS day Dec. 1

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

Through small group and campus-wide events, faculty are exposed to high-level guest speakers in an intimate, candid environment, allowing them to make important connections and share ideas that will drive their academic areas forward. The Adams Chair, which also helped create an MTSU course taught by former Vice President Al Gore, invited guest speakers to campus including:

Dr. Rhea Seddon, physician and NASA astronaut, "Spinoffs from Space," 2013

Dr. Arlene Taylor, brain-function specialist, "The Aging Brain," 2009 and 2012

Dr. Paul Owen, author of *A Long Winter*, a book about the foster care system, 2010

Dr. Gregory Welk, on physical health and physical activity

Dr. Hunter Doherty "Patch" Adams, physician, comedian/clown, social activist, and author (portrayed by Robin Williams in the movie *Patch Adams*), presenting his theories on humor and health

Dr. John Dreyzehner, Tennessee Commissioner of Health, on the state's Primary Prevention Initiative targeting physical inactivity, excessive caloric intake, tobacco and nicotine addiction, and other substance use disorders

Dr. Scott Corlew, plastic surgeon, about international volunteer work to provide services and training for the reduction of congenital facial deformities

Dr. Steve Collier, dean and president of MGH Institute of Health Professions in Boston



The Center for Health and Human Services, which supports the Adams Chair, helped develop an MTSU course taught by former U.S. Vice President Al Gore, entitled *Community Development through the Lens of Families*.



Dr. Rhea Seddon, distinguished lecturer, discusses medical inventions in "An Astronaut's Looks at Spinoffs from Space"



Helping prevent cancer in Tennessee

MTSU's Adams Chair joined in the Tennessee Cancer Coalition Summit on the Burden of Cancer in Tennessee in 2005 in Nashville (photos above) and the next year started working annually on the long-term Tennessee Comprehensive Cancer Control Program. The first *Tennessee Cancer Control Plan*, compiling and distributing information statewide that helps prevent cancer, was released in 2008 with Tennessee former health commissioner, Dr. Kenneth Robinson, on hand.

(Top left: Tennessee Cancer Coalition Summit planning committee member George Lobdell with Adams Chair M. Jo Edwards, center, and Becky Jones).

2011

Begins Tennessee anti-tobacco advocacy initiative at community level

Yes I Can! Diabetes Self-Management Program launches

Adds annual April exhibit for students for World Health Day

Explores health care partnerships with Kuwait University

Adams Chair holder M.Jo Edwards met with Kuwait University officials in Kuwait City in summer 2011 to discuss possible partnerships with MTSU's Center for Health and Human Services. "We discussed the potential for shared online courses in community and public health and student recruitment into MTSU's Ph.D. and master's degrees in Health and Human Performance," Edwards said. "We also discussed their need for advanced post-primary certification in medical imaging, clinical laboratory sciences, and nursing and our role in facilitating a connection to those programs here in the United States."

2012

Ongoing projects/reports

- Cancer Control Program
- Death Scene investigation Project
- Rutherford County Health Watch
- Tennessee Allied Health and Health Services Programs
- Tennessee Anti-Tobacco Advocacy
- Yes I Can! Diabetes Self-Management Program

2013

Adams Chair and CHHS move into new Lytle Street facilities, along with revised Tennessee Obesity Taskforce

Edwards visits Bangkok, Thailand, to study medical tourism

Tennessee commissioner of health visits MTSU

2014

Ongoing projects/reports

- Tennessee Anti-Tobacco Advocacy
- Death Scene investigation Project
- Rutherford County Health Watch
- Cancer Control Program

2015

Edwards retires from faculty, but continues to work on health workforce issues and represent MTSU statewide

CHHS and its funded projects move to Graduate Studies and Research

Cindy Chafin becomes interim director of CHHS