Nomination for Donn D’Alessio Award

Nominee: Abiola Keller

This is a very enthusiastic nomination for Abiola Keller, MPAS, PA-C to receive the 2010 Donn D’Alessio Student Award. Abiola is one of the most active PhD students in the department and among one of the top students that we have here. She maintains active intellectual interactions with students and faculty, and has been an effective student leader in her research group and through the MS/PhD Student Organization.

She has been an active collaborator in several studies and has successfully led a group of fellow students in writing a paper entitled “Perceived Stress and the Impact on Health among Adults in the US.” Through her leadership on this project, Abiola consistently demonstrated an outstanding rapport with her fellow students. She very effectively led students through the processes of writing and submitting a manuscript—from the conceptualization of the research question and data interpretation to thinking about the policy implications.

Besides Abiola’s scholarly work, Abiola is a notable student “citizen” of the department and has always been involved in student and departmental activities. For example, more than once she has been an organizer and/or contributor of the annual Population Health Poster Session as well as a student host/volunteer for Welcome Day or the New Student Orientation.

On a personal note, Abiola has a very likeable personality and a ready smile. She has served as a frequent information resource and mentor to incoming students in PHS. Her interaction with students on an informal level may be difficult to quantify, but her willingness to always help out is to be commended. She has contributed to the friendly and accessible atmosphere of the department.

In summary, her scholarly work, leadership, and service to the department have benefited many in PHS. Based on my experiences with Abiola, I offer my highest recommendation without reservation for 2010 Donn D'Alessio Student Award. She is an engaging, focused and energetic student mentor who has successfully shared her knowledge and excitement about the field of population health with fellow students. Honoring Abiola with this award would be honoring one of our best and brightest future teachers in population health.