**Alyssa H. Fritz**

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**EDUCATION**

**Master of Public Health (MPH), 2018**

Johns Hopkins University – Bloomberg School of Public Health

Capstone: *Identifying nutrition-related predictors of early academic success among Head Start students in Eagle County, Colorado: A proposal for secondary data analysis* (Advisor: Dr. Susan Gross)

**Bachelor of Science (BS), 2012**

University of Minnesota – Twin Cities (*summa cum laude*)

Major: Nutrition-Dietetics; Minor: Sustainability Studies

Honors Thesis: *Dietetics Education for the 21st Century: Suggestions for the revitalization of a Didactic Program in Dietetics through coalescence of the educational priorities of the program’s home institutions with the projections of the future needs of the dietetics profession* (Advisor: Dr. Leonard Marquart)

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH – Minneapolis, MN

**Policy and Research Fellow, Rural Health Research Center** (August 2022 – Present)

* Support the design, implementation, and policy impact of research projects that address systemic and structural determinants of health, with a focus on maternal health and rural health.
* Develop, maintain, and coordinate policy relationships and disseminate policy-relevant research findings to a variety of audiences.
* Contribute to research writing and analysis.
* Provide strategic executive administrative support to the Director of the University of Minnesota Rural Health Research Center and the University of Minnesota Rural Health program.

**Manager of Research Translation and Policy, Center for Antiracism Research for Health Equity** (January 2021 – August 2022)

* Served as project manager for multiple sponsored projects aimed at improving maternal health and racial equity.
* Coordinated drafting, submission, and management of research grant applications and contracts.
* Co-managed hiring of Deputy Director and six other full-time staff shortly after launch of the research center.
* Supported Center Director and other team members in preparing for legislative testimony and meetings with legislators; drafted letters of support for legislative committee hearings.

MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES – Saint Paul, MN

**Committee Administrator** (January 2020 – Present)

* Planned and executed public hearings for the Education Policy Committee (Chair: State Rep. Cheryl Youakim), Early Childhood Finance and Policy Division (Chair: State Rep. Dave Pinto), and Select Committee on Racial Justice (Co-Chairs: State Reps. Rena Moran and Ruth Richardson).
* Advanced Chairs’ legislative agendas by guiding bills through the legislative process, coordinating stakeholder strategy, and assisting in final negotiations.
* Supported 2020 legislative successes including the Peacetime Emergency Child Care Grant program, an increase in Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) reimbursement rates, and a law to significantly limit the suspension and expulsion of preschool students.

**Committee Legislative Assistant** (January 2019 – January 2020)

* Facilitated communications between State Representatives Rena Moran and Shelly Christensen and their constituents, state agencies, advocacy groups, media outlets, and other elected officials.
* Conducted policy research and tracked bills to assist State Representatives in advancing legislation.
* Executed Health and Human Services Policy Committee hearing logistics, ensuring accuracy of committee documentation for over 110 bills.
* Coordinated district outreach and resolved constituent concerns on behalf of legislators.
* Served as aide to the People of Color and Indigenous (POCI) Caucus and the Legislative Task Force on Child Protection.

CHISAGO COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH – North Branch, MN

**Community Health Specialist** (July 2018 – January 2019)

* Coordinated county Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP) initiative: recruited and collaborated with community partners (e.g. schools, health care systems, municipalities, businesses) to expand access to healthy eating, active living, and tobacco-free environments.
* Developed educational materials, work plans, and communication tools to support community health objectives.

DAKOTA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT – Apple Valley, MN

**WIC Dietitian** (September 2013 – October 2016)

* Conducted comprehensive assessment of the nutrition and socioeconomic needs of pregnant and postpartum people, infants, and children.
* Provided culturally-responsive nutrition and breastfeeding counseling to WIC participants.
* Coordinated client case management in collaboration with health care and social service providers.

**FELLOWSHIPS AND INTERNSHIPS**

**Political Leaders of Tomorrow Intern, 2018**

Women Winning, St. Paul, MN

**Health Equity Fellow, 2017 – 2018**

Eagle River Youth Coalition, Edwards, CO

**Dietetic Intern, 2012 – 2013**

Maricopa County Department of Public Health, Phoenix, AZ

**PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIP**

* Minnesota Public Health Association (2018 – Present)
  + Governing Council At-Large Representative (2021-2022)
  + Health Equity Committee Member
* National Conference of State Legislatures (2019 – 2021)
* Delta Omega Honorary Society in Public Health, Alpha Chapter (2018 –2019)
* American Public Health Association (2017 – 2019)
* Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (2011 – 2017)
  + Public Health/Community Nutrition Dietetic Practice Group, Newsletter Committee Member

**BOARD AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

* Board Member, Twin Cities Food Justice (2021 – Present)
  + Vice Chair (2021, 2023)
  + Governance and Operations Committee Member
* District 2 Representative, Ramsey County Community Health Services Advisory Committee (2019 – 2022)

**COMMUNITY SERVICE AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT**

* Treasurer and Canvasser, Jamie Becker-Finn for MN State Representative (2018 – 2021)
* Deputy Communications Manager, Aric Putnam for MN State Senate (2019 – 2020)
* Assistant Coach, Girls on the Run Twin Cities (2019)
* Mentor, University of Minnesota College of Food, Agricultural, and Natural Resource Science (CFANS) Mentor Program (2015 – 2019)
* Family Support Volunteer, Catholic Charities of Denver (2017 – 2018)
* Nutrition Consultant, Twin Cities Food Justice (2016 – 2018)

**PUBLICATIONS**

***Refereed/peer-reviewed journal articles***

1. Basile Ibrahim B, Interrante JD, **Fritz AH,** Tuttle MS, Kozhimannil KB. Inequities in Availability of Evidence-Based Birth Supports to Improve Perinatal Health for Socially Vulnerable Rural Residents. *Children (Basel)*. 2022;9(7):1077. Published 2022 Jul 19. [doi:10.3390/children9071077](https://www.mdpi.com/2227-9067/9/7/1077). \*Received 2022 Yale School of Medicine Office of Health Equity Research Award for Yale Research Excellence.

***Non-refereed/peer-reviewed content***

1. Lamb E, Merwin M, Mumford Q, Thach S, Henning-Smith C, **Fritz A.** Obstetric Readiness in Rural Communities Whose Hospitals Do Not Have Labor and Delivery Units. National Rural Health Association Policy Brief. Under review by National Rural Health Association Policy Congress.
2. Chastain PL, Tuttle MS, **Fritz AH**, Basile Ibrahim B, and Kozhimannil KB. Evidence-Based Supports for Maternal and Infant Health in 133 Rural US Counties with and without Hospital-Based Obstetric Care. UMN Rural Health Research Center Infographic. December 2022. <https://rhrc.umn.edu/publication/a-comparison-of-evidence-based-supports-for-maternal-and-infant-health-in-133-rural-us-counties-with-and-without-hospital-based-obstetric-care/>
3. Basile Ibrahim B, Tuttle M, **Fritz AH,** Interrante J, and Kozhimannil KB. Racial Inequities in the Availability of Evidence-Based Supports for Maternal and Infant Health in 93 Rural US Counties with Hospital-Based Obstetric Care. UMN Rural Health Research Center Policy Brief. June 2022. <https://rhrc.umn.edu/publication/racial-inequities-in-the-availability-of-evidence-based-supports-for-maternal-and-infant-health-in-93-rural-us-counties-with-hospital-based-obstetric-care/>
4. **Fritz A.** Breastfeeding Research 2015: A Year in Review. Article in *The Digest*, the newsletter of the Public Health and Community Nutrition Practice Group of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. March 2016.

**PRESENTATIONS**

1. **Fritz A.** Preparing Legislative Testimony. Presentation to University of Minnesota Rural Health Program Project REACH participants. March 2022, March 2023; virtual.
2. **Fritz A.** Racism is a Public Health Crisis Declaration in Minnesota. A webinar presentation, Institute for Public Health Innovation Racism is a Public Health Crisis Webinar Series: The National Landscape and Next Steps for Virginia. June 2021; virtual.
3. **Fritz A.** Overview and Discussion of the Minnesota House Select Committee on Racial Justice Final Report. Presentation to members of the Minnesota Public Health Association Health Equity Committee. March 2021; virtual.

**AWARDS AND HONORS** (excluding merit scholarships)

***Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health***

**Inductee, Delta Omega Honorary Society in Public Health, Alpha Chapter, 2018**

* Selected along with 10% of graduating class for admittance into this national public health honor society that recognizes and supports the development and attainment of excellence in research, scholarship, and practice in the field of public health. Members of Delta Omega are recognized leaders in public health.

**Finalist, Student Award for Excellence in Public Health Practice, 2018**

* For collaboration with local community to launch a WIC community garden program in Summit County, Colorado. This award is given by the Office of Public Health Practice and Training and recognizes masters and doctoral students for outstanding public health practice contributions.

***University of Minnesota***

**Graduation with Latin Honors, *summa cum laude*, 2012**

* For completing the requirements of the University Honors Program, including maintaining successful, continuous participation in the program, writing an honors thesis, and graduating with a cumulative grade point average of 3.75 or higher.

**Graduation with High Distinction, 2012**

* For graduating with a cumulative grade point average of 3.9 or higher.

**Outstanding Student Employee Award, 2012**

* For energy and creativity in coordinating the first annual Food Day at the University of Minnesota, as part of student employment with the Healthy Foods, Healthy Lives Institute. This award is given by the Student Employment Leadership Program to the top 10% of undergraduate student employees.

**President’s Student Leadership and Service Award, 2012**

* For spearheading and coordinating the inaugural Food Day at the University of Minnesota, for serving as president of the school's chapter of Universities Fighting World Hunger, and for helping establish Students Crossing Borders, a culture-sharing Living Learning Community in Middlebrook Hall (a student residence hall). This award is presented to one-tenth of one percent of the student body by the Office of the President, Office for Student Affairs, and the University of Minnesota Alumni Association.

**CLINICAL CERTIFICATIONS**

**Registered Dietitian (RD), 2013 – Present**

Commission on Dietetic Registration

**Certified Lactation Counselor (CLC), 2014 – Present**

Academy of Lactation Policy and Practice