

## Abstract

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### **Centering Student Voices in Anti-Oppressive Advocacy: A Call for Schools of Public Health**

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Schools of public health (SPH) have the opportunity and obligation to actively promote anti-oppressive education, practices, and policies. The ColoradoSPH is a collaborative program between the University of Colorado (CU), Colorado State University (CSU), and the University of Northern Colorado (UNC) where students are leading efforts to combat oppression and structural racism within the school. Despite significant institutional and structural barriers, students at ColoradoSPH have made notable strides on their own, and with key administrative and faculty champions, to promote anti-oppressive practices for students of public health.

Our efforts have led to programmatic changes that better align ColoradoSPH with equity and social justice priorities. CSU students formed the Anti-Racism Student Action Group, which launched initiatives that shifted the curriculum and culture of the Master of Public Health program. CU Anschutz students are active in several committees including the Anti-Racism and Equity Committee. Both of the aforementioned examples include students, faculty and staff working to address equity, diversity and inclusion gaps. As students continue anti-racism efforts across ColoradoSPH, it is critical for administration and faculty to center student voices to achieve equitable change.

This presentation is going to explore efforts led by ColoradoSPH students and resulting effects that could benefit other schools of public health including:

1. Development of funded student positions to direct initiatives aimed at improving School inclusivity and equity.
2. Curriculum updates and development of new anti-oppressive courses.
3. Changes to staff and faculty hiring practices.
4. Publications of scholarship addressing the need for student-centered leadership and scholar-activism.

