

Tony Gargano, MPH

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Education

2018 MPH University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE

Department of Public Health

Specialization: Health Promotion

2012 BS University of Nebraska Omaha, Omaha, NE

Major in Exercise Science

Graduated magna cum laude

Professional Experience

Team Engagement and Internal Project Manager, Gretchen Swanson Center for Nutrition (GSCN)

Omaha, NE | July 2022 - C

- Leads the team engagement committee and corresponding efforts
- Supports the Leadership team with engagement/human resources-related research and initiatives
- Responsible for the project management of internal projects, such as the self-funded Grants Program

Senior Research Associate, Gretchen Swanson Center for Nutrition (GSCN)

Omaha, NE | October 2015 – July 2022

- Supporting the implementation of research and evaluation projects by conducting literature reviews
- Developing measurement tools, collecting and analyzing data, and supporting the development of project deliverables
- Aiding in analyzing data using statistical techniques and writing research results
- Assisting in conceptualizing, researching, and writing proposals
- Preparing reports for submission and papers for publication. Reviewing and writing critical summaries of research literature

Internship, Live Well Omaha Kids

Omaha, NE | July 2015 – January 2016

- Primarily working within Live Well Omaha Kids' effort to affect policy and environment change that promotes healthy eating and physical activity in child care centers by training and coaching child care providers to be change agents for health within their child care program
- Engaging in outreach activities within schools and in the community
- Promoting healthy habits countdown (5-4-3-2-1 Go!)
- Developing toolkit materials to promote and practice of 5-4-3-2-1 Go! as well as gathering evidence-based resources for an online platform to support practice of the recommended daily behaviors
- Engaging the community in 5-4-3-2-1 Go! at events or assemblies through presentations and vendor booths

Grants and Contracts – Current

- December 2019 - November 2021 **Develop and Test a Brief Supplemental Food Security Module that Aims to Add Utility When Used Alongside the USDA Household Food Security Survey Module – The Walmart Foundation**
- Identify and test survey items to create new complementary modules to be used in conjunction with the Household Food Security Survey Module (HFSSM).
 - Role: Research Associate
- January 2019 - August 2022 **Rooted in Evidence Grant Program: Measuring the Impact of Innovative Food Bank Programs Across the Nation – Gretchen Swanson Center for Nutrition Foundation**
- Develop and administer funding announcement for \$20,000-25,000 grants to food banks across the country to implement innovative nutrition projects, provide evaluation, and technical assistance.
 - Role: Research Associate

Grants and Contracts – Past

- October 2019 - June 2021 **International Collaborative to Identify and Improve Food Insecurity Risk Factors in Melbourne and Omaha – Eisele Family Foundation**
- Partner with Australia-based researchers to develop and pilot test an innovative measurement tool that can be used as a screener for risk factors and indicators of persistent or fluctuating food insecurity.
 - Role: Research Associate
- August 2018 - May 2021 **Assessment to Inform the American Cancer Society’s Future Directions in Food Insecurity – American Cancer Society**
- Qualitative assessment with key stakeholders; literature review on intersection of food insecurity, obesity, and cancer; and landscape analysis.
 - Role: Research Associate
- August 2019 - December 2020 **The Development of a Mobile App to Measure the Adoption and Implementation of Healthy Eating and Active Living Policies and Practices in Family Child Care Homes – Buffett Early Childhood Institute**
- Development of a mobile app to measure family childcare provider adoption and implementation of healthy eating and active living policies and practices.
 - Role: Research Associate
- May 2019 - March 2020 **Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) Community Stress and Resilience and the Impact on Diet – Guidehouse**
- Conduct a literature review and qualitative data collection to develop strategies for strengthening resilience in communities affected by PFAS.
 - Role: Research Associate
- July 2019 - December 2019 **Exploring Feasible Food Access Strategies for the Lakota Sioux on the Pine Ridge Reservation – Eisele Family Foundation**
- Conduct an assessment to navigate the types of resources available and successful programs for potential replication.
 - Role: Research Associate
- April 2019 - August 2019 **Assessment of the Praxis Network: Local Organizers and Traditional Public Health – The Praxis Project and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation**
- Assess how Praxis supports and promotes the work of local organizers to traditional public health.
 - Role: Research Associate

Grants and Contracts – Past (Continued)

January 2019 - June 2019	Common Threads <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide evaluation expertise across several projects administered by Common Threads.• Role: Research Associate
December 2016 - June 2019	Evaluation of the Healthy Schools Program – Alliance for a Healthier Generation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide evaluation through secondary data analysis, observational assessment, and key-informant interviews.• Role: Research Associate
January 2016 - December 2018	Ebeid Institute for Population Health – ProMedica <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work collaboratively with ProMedica and the University of Toledo to conduct an impact assessment of the Ebeid Institute in Toledo, OH. The Ebeid Institute is a grocery store built in an underserved area, providing healthy foods, job training, and cooking courses.• Role: Research Associate
April 2013 - December 2018	Evaluation of the School Food Initiative – LiveWell Colorado <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evaluation of a culinary, operational, and leadership training program to increase scratch cooking in school districts throughout Colorado.• Role: Research Associate
March 2013 - September 2018	Evaluation of the National Early Care and Education Learning Collaborative (ECELC) – Nemours Foundation and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evaluation of ECELC to improve nutrition and physical activity policies and practices in early care and education centers throughout nine states.• Role: Research Associate
January 2018 - September 2018	Evaluation of the Ohio Healthy Programs Project in Family Child Care Homes – Nemours Foundation and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evaluation on successes and challenges for FCC programs across Ohio.• Role: Research Associate
July 2018 - August 2018	Advocacy Readiness among VFHK Grantees – American Heart Association <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop measurement and reporting tools and protocols that allows AHA to measure, analyze, and report on advocacy activities and capacity building among their grantees.• Role: Research Associate
January 2018 - May 2018	Evaluation of the Culture of Health Prize Program – Robert Wood Johnson Foundation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evaluation on the effects of the culture of health prize program on winning communities from the perspective of those who administer and support the program.• Role: Research Associate
May 2017 - October 2017	Evaluation of the Accelerating National Community Health Outcomes through Reinforcing Partnerships (ANCHOR) initiative – American Heart Association <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Co-lead evaluation of overall lessons learned of the ANCHOR initiative and make recommendations to inform future federal chronic disease prevention initiatives.• Role: Research Associate
January 2015 - September 2015	1422 Grant – Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conduct a nutrition standard assessment of hospitals and/or public institutions in partnership with six participating local public health departments.

- Role: Research Associate
- August 2014 -
August 2015
- Evaluation of Technical Assistance for the Voices for Healthy Kids Initiative – Robert Wood Johnson Foundation**
- Co-lead evaluation of technical assistance for Voices for Healthy Kids, specifically in the process, tracking, and implementation of TA provided to grantees.
 - Role: Research Associate

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Italics indicates co-author was a doctoral mentee

1. *Smith, T.M.*, Blaser, C., Geno-Rasmussen, C., Plumlee, C., Shuell, J., **Gargano, T.**, & Yaroch, A.L. Improving nutrition and physical activity policies and practices in early care and education in three states, 2014–2016. Preventing Chronic Disease. 2017 Aug 31;14:E73. <https://doi.org/10.5888/pcd14.160513>
2. Calloway EE, Carpenter LR, **Gargano T**, Sharp JL, Yaroch AL. Development of new measures to assess household nutrition security, and choice in dietary characteristics. Appetite (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.appet.2022.106288>
3. Calloway, EE, Chiappone, AL, Carpenter, LR, **Gargano, T**, Morales, X, & Yaroch, AL (2022). Equitable Partnerships between Community-Based and Traditional Public Health Organizations: Recommendations from the Field. Progress in Community Health Partnerships: Research, Education, and Action 16(3), 445-450. <https://www.muse.jhu.edu/article/864417>"<https://www.muse.jhu.edu/article/864417>.

Manuscripts Under Review
