Middle Tennessee State University does not discriminate against students, employees, or applicants for admission or employment on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, disability, age, status as a protected veteran, genetic information, or any other legally protected class with respect to all employment, programs, and activities sponsored by MTSU. The Assistant to the President for Institutional Equity and Compliance has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies and can be reached at Cope Administration Building 116, 1301 East Main Street, Murfreesboro, TN 37132; Marian.Wilson@mtsu.edu; or 615-898-2185. The MTSU policy on non-discrimination can be found at mtsu.edu/titleix.
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.

At 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 Diames and Directors of Allied Health; and a member of the THA Rural Health Partnership, THA Health Workforce Roundtables, the Department of Education Health Science and Technology Advisory Board, and Vanderbilt's Nuclear Medicine Technology Advisory Board.

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.
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.

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

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

Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) approves CHHS

Under the direction of the Adams' Chair, the center endeavors to enhance the health and human services educational programs at MTSU and to form an interdisciplinary community of scholars. The CHHS also encourages quality education, research, and service programs to meet the needs of middle Tennessee's medical, health, and human services community.

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

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

Staff support, Linda Logan, shared between CHHS and Adams Chair in Nursing

Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) approves CHHS

Chair supports Health Sciences Preprofessional Advising program at MTSU

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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
- Examples of these disciplines:
  - Developmental Psychology
  - Department of Social Work
  - Graduate Studies in Gerontology and Health Care Management
  - Preprofessional medical programs
  - School of Nursing

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

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

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

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 Economic Development Commission.
The Adams Chair, in partnership with the Tennessee Department of Health, aimed to provide assistance to create social environments supporting non-tobacco use and making it more difficult for underage tobacco use. MTSU Road Rules cast member and anti-tobacco use advocate Yes Duffy (pictured) was a guest speaker at the event along with Dr. Victor Dericks, 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.

Partnerships

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

- Rutherford County Wellness Council
- Rutherford County Primary Care and HOPE Clinic
- Tennessee Rural Health Partnership
- Tennessee Obesity Task Force
- Tennessee Hospital Association
- Workforce Roundtable
- Dean and Directors of Allied Health in Tennessee
- Department of Education CTE Advisory Board
- Tennessee Institute of Public Health
- State Health Plan

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. Garbhathan (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.

A-B-C-1-2-3 Healthy Kids in TN Phase II

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.

2001

- 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 social environments 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 Dericks, 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.

2002

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

The Adams Chair conducted the Community Diabetes Control Program. MTSU partnered with the Rutherford County Health Department, the Rutherford County Health Board, the Rutherford County Public Health Department, and the Rutherford County School System to develop the educational program in 2002–03 for the African-American community at high risk for diabetes.

South Africa Squatter Settlement Research project started to develop sustainable clean water and sanitation, and later HIV prevention (2000–03)
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 (DOH) to design, implement, and evaluate a population program to prevent and reduce smoking during pregnancy. The program was based on a model developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and was designed to assist women who were pregnant and smoking at any time during pregnancy.

Program Outcomes:
- Over 1,000 pregnant women participated in the program over the three-year period.
- Participants who received counseling and agreed to use the self-help guide were 28% more likely to quit smoking compared to those who did not.
- The program resulted in a 25% increase in the number of women who quit smoking during pregnancy.

SMART Moms Recognition

The SMART Moms project was honored with 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 awarded to the SMART Moms project in October 2005. The award recognizes an exemplary program addressing the needs of mothers and babies. The Tennessee Chapter of the March of Dimes was also 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

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

This initiative supported CHHS Audio-Visual Services and Continuing Education Services with training workshops to meet the needs of health care providers in Tennessee.

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 a campus advisor for HST teachers completing their degree/ licensure requirements for Tennessee.

Begins Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program to protect youth in Tennessee

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

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2004

Funds 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 assess workforce shortages of health care professionals in Tennessee

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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 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 2007–08, the last year of the grant, 121 girls participated in workshop activities and earned folic acid badges or patches, with 107 completing 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.

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

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.

Cindy Rhea selected to receive HRSA grant to develop 10% for Adams Chair and CHHS.

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, Cooke, 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 total counties. The MTSU center also managed training meetings for staff across the state and coordinated a three-day student tobacco summit in June 2009.
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, "Spinnoffs 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 Walk, on physical health and physical activity

Dr. Hunter Doherty "Patch" Adams, physician, comedian/drummer, 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 professor of MCH Institute of Health Professions in Boston

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

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.

The Adams Chair holder M.Jo Edwards 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 classes in public health and health sciences and ways we might work together to achieve our mutual goal of improving health and increasing performance," Edwards said.

"We also discussed the potential for offering a Master of Public Health program online in Kuwait and establishing a sister relationship between MTSU’s College of Health and Human Services and Kuwait University’s School of Public Health," Edwards said.

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.

Cindy Chafin becomes interim director of CHHS.