Dr. Carl Adams and Mrs. Jennie Mae Adams 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.

The Adams family of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, has been a strong supporter of MTSU for many decades. The late Dr. Adams, a physician and lifelong resident of Tennessee, had a vision to provide higher quality healthcare services for seniors. He was the founding President and CEO of National HealthCare Corporation (NHC).

As community physician, Dr. Carl Adams’ concern for the quality and quantity of health care professionals to address the issues of a sufficient and well-educated health care work force led him to establish the Adams Chair of Excellence in Health Care Services. The Adams Chair was established in November 1988 with funds donated by the late Dr. Carl Adams and his wife, Jennie Mae Adams, and matched by MTSU and the Tennessee Chairs of Excellence program. The Chair provides a platform for MTSU to engage an interdisciplinary group of scholars, in partnership with the community, to forge solutions to current health care concerns.

Holder of the Chair, Martha Jo Edwards, Ed.D., was selected as the first Adams Chair of Excellence in 1992, and she continues to serve in that capacity.

The Center for Health and Human Services supports the work of the Adams Chair of Excellence. The Tennessee Board of Regents formally approved the Center in 1993. Dr. Edwards, the Center’s founding Director, and the Center staff focus on developing partnerships, both internal and external to the University. The Center collaborates with MTSU faculty, public agencies, and private not-for-profit organizations to develop and implement programs designed to improve the health of the middle and greater Tennessee community.

Adams Chair of Excellence in Health Care Services
Middle Tennessee State University
Ezell 119, Box 99, Murfreesboro, TN 37132
Phone: 615-904-8342  FAX: 615-494-8750
www.mtsu.edu/achcs/
OVER OUR IMPACT ON PUBLIC HEALTH

Over the last ten years, the Center has been awarded over $3.6 million in external funding to conduct a wide variety of public health projects. Among the Center's projects are:

**ABC123 Healthy Kids in Tennessee** - The Center collaborates with the Middle Tennessee childhood action team – a subcommittee of the Tennessee Cancer Coalition – to educate daycare/preschool providers on healthy lifestyles to decrease the risk of developing cancer and other lifestyle associated diseases and conditions. This project is funded by MTSU’s Center for Physical Activity and Health in Youth (CPAHY).

**Death Scene Investigation/SIDS Project** - Funded by the Tennessee Department of Health, this initiative partners the Center, MTSU Continuing Education and Distance Learning, and Audio-Visual Services at MTSU with the Tennessee State Medical Examiner and the Departments of Health and Children's Services to produce and provide a statewide training program for investigating sudden unexpected infant and child death.

**SIDS Education: Reducing Risk in Middle Tennessee** - Funded by the March of Dimes Tennessee Chapter, this project provided SIDS risk reduction education to health department clients, daycare providers working in low-income communities, and local high schools and daycares serving parenting teens.

**Smart Mothers Are Resisting Tobacco (S.M.A.R.T. Moms)** - Funded by the national March of Dimes office, and co-sponsored by the Center and the Tennessee Chapter of the March of Dimes, this program promoted smoking cessation in pregnant women in Tennessee, in partnership with the Tennessee Department of Health WIC offices throughout the state.

**Tobacco Use Prevention in Rutherford County** - This project, funded by the Tennessee Department of Health, teamed MTSU and Center staff with Rutherford County youth, schools, and youth-based and health-related volunteer organizations to reduce the initiation of tobacco use among youth, promote cessation of tobacco products among youth and adults, and decrease exposure to environmental tobacco smoke.

**Folic Acid Every Day** - Good Health Looks Good project, funded by the March of Dimes Tennessee Chapter, educated young adolescent women about the importance of folic acid and vitamin supplementation, and the role of folic acid plays in the prevention of birth defects and as part of an overall healthy lifestyle.

The study can be viewed and downloaded from our website: www.mtsu.edu/achcs/AlliedHealth.shtml
A LEADER AND PARTNER IN HEALTH INITIATIVES

HEALTH WATCH
Since 1998, the Center has published the annual Rutherford County Health Watch report. Health Watch provides a brief summary of the county’s health status at a particular point in time. The reports can be viewed and downloaded from our website: www.mtsu.edu/achcs/healthwatch.shtml

EVENTS
The Center hosts and participates in a variety of health-related events. The Center hosted a World Health Day event at the MTSU Campus in April. The event included a presentation by Dr. Scott Corlew on global health and a student poster exhibit.

In July, the Center hosted a regional workshop on the Tennessee State Health Plan. Participants provided input to State Health Planning representatives on the development of the plan.

TENNESSEE CANCER CONTROL PLAN
The Center works with the Tennessee Department of Health to facilitate activities specific to the Tennessee Cancer Control Plan. The Plan is a comprehensive document outlining specific strategies to prevent and control cancer in Tennessee as determined by the Tennessee Cancer Coalition (TCC), a volunteer group of citizens and organizations dedicated to reducing the burden of cancer in Tennessee. The Center assisted with forming six regional Cancer Coalitions which carry out many of the activities detailed in the Plan. The Center has provided marketing/media activities as well as evaluation activities during various phases of the project, and has coordinated an annual Cancer Summit educational event each year.

TENNESSEE INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Center Director Jo Edwards served as founding director of the Tennessee Institute of Public Health (TNIPH) and was responsible for preliminary planning and development of the Institute. The TNIPH focuses on public health and higher education projects and research. She continues to serve as a consultant and board member.

COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS
The Tennessee Institute for Public Health (TNIPH) published its County Health Rankings Index and individual county profiles in 2007 and 2008. Using a similar model, the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation produced the 2010 County Health Rankings. The report ranks counties in Tennessee by health outcomes and health factors as well as the components of each. Health outcomes represent how healthy a county is, and rankings are based on measures of mortality (how long people live) and morbidity (how healthy people feel while alive). Health factors are what influence the health of a county, and rankings are based on scores from four types of factors: behavioral, clinical, social and economic, and environmental.
ADAMS CHAIR OF EXCELLENCE IN HEALTH CARE SERVICES &
THE CENTER FOR HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS

Units affiliated with the Center consist of those whose educational programs prepare graduates in health and/or human services. The programs listed are affiliates of the Center and are a coalition of academic units which vary in focus, but share the common goal of preparing the health and human services workforce in Tennessee. These programs have been an integral part of the university for many years. Affiliated MTSU departments include:

- Aging Studies Program, School of Nursing, Department of Psychology,
- Department of Sociology and Anthropology,
- Department of Health and Human Performance, Department of Human Sciences,
- Communication Disorders Program, Pre-Professional Medical Programs,
- Graduate Studies in Gerontology and Health Care Management

The Center’s mission is to initiate and strengthen academic programs in health and human services to support workforce development and promote healthy communities. Through our partnerships, we disseminate research and health information; and conduct education and outreach projects designed to improve population health.

The Adams Chair of Excellence in Health Care Services and its Center for Human Services is now a part of the new College of Behavioral and Health Sciences at Middle Tennessee State University. The College includes the departments of Criminal Justice, Health and Human Performance, Human Sciences, Psychology, Social Work and the School of Nursing.

Staff

Dr. Jo Edwards
Adams Chair and Center Director

Cindy Rhea
Grants Coordinator

Jeannie Paul
Executive Assistant

Cynthia Chafin
Project Coordinator

Jill Thomas
Project Coordinator

Adams Chair of Excellence in Health Care Services
Middle Tennessee State University
Ezell Hall, Room 119
Box 99
Murfreesboro, TN 37132
Phone: 615-904-8342
FAX: 615-494-8750
www.mtsu.edu/achcs/