



Application for Appointment to Whatcom County Boards and Commissions

Public Statement

THIS IS A PUBLIC DOCUMENT: As a candidate for a public board or commission, the information provided will be available to the County Council, County Executive, and the public. All board and commission members are expected to be fair, impartial, and respectful of the public, County staff, and each other. Failure to abide by these expectations may result in revocation of appointment and removal from the appointive position.

First Name	Steve
Last Name	Bennett
Date	1/7/2019
Street Address	6075 monument dr
City	Ferndale
Zip	98248
Do you live in & are you registered to vote in Whatcom County?	Yes
Do you have a different mailing address?	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Primary Telephone	6125624943
Secondary Telephone	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Email Address	bennet63@wwu.edu
1. Name of Board or Committee	Public Health Advisory Board
Public Health Advisory Board Position:	Education field <i>Referred to: Communities that Experience Health Inequities.</i>
2. Do you meet the residency, employment, and/or affiliation requirements of the position for which you're applying?	Yes
3. Which Council district do you live in?	District 5
4. Are you a US citizen?	Yes

5. Are you registered to vote in Whatcom County? Yes

6. Have you declared candidacy (as defined by RCW 42.17A.055) for a paid elected office in any jurisdiction within the county? No

7. Have you ever been a member of this Board/Commission? No

8. Do you or your spouse have a financial interest in or are you an employee or officer of any business or agency that does business with Whatcom County? No

You may attach a resume or detailed summary of experience, qualifications, & interest in response to the following questions [Bennett-CV.pdf](#) - attached

9. Please describe your occupation (or former occupation if retired), qualifications, professional and/or community activities, and education Please see attached CV

10. Please describe why you're interested in serving on this board or commission I am passionate about public health and have made it my lifes work. Serving on this board would allow me to continue to learn about the challenges facing the people of Whatcom county and to be involved in assisting public health locally. I feel I have a breadth of knowledge and experience from epidemiology to health education that is useful for working with the board. Additionally, I can take what I learn from the board and my experiences and incorporate it into my teaching thus helping to educate current and future residents of Whatcom county.

References (please include daytime telephone number): Dr. Keith Russel (360) 650-3529 Dr. Liz Mogford- (360) 650-3002

Signature of applicant: Steve Bennett

Place Signed / Submitted Bellingham, WA

STEVE BENNETT

Steve.Bennett@wwu.edu
6075 Monument Dr. Ferndale, WA 98248
612-562-4943

RESEARCH INTEREST:

To teach undergraduate students the basics of modern public health knowledge and practice.

To study the social determinants of health and their impacts on the health of marginalized populations, locally and globally.

To study the epidemiological and ecological relationships between the environment, land use, population issues, social issues and the emergence and spread of infectious disease with public health outcomes.

EDUCATION:

University of Minnesota School of Public Health

Doctor of Philosophy in Public Health, Environmental Infectious Disease
Completed 2017

Tulane University School of Public Health & Tropical Medicine

Master of Science in Public Health in Tropical Medicine & Parasitology,
May 2009

Awarded the *Tulane 34 Award* for excellence in academics, and leadership within the school and the community

Southwest Texas State University

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre, December 2004

EXPERIENCE:

Assistant Professor- Western Washington University

Community Health

August 2018- Current

Non-Tenure Track Faculty- Western Washington University

Community Health, International Studies

September 2017- May 2018

Visiting Faculty- Biology- University of St. Thomas (previously Adjunct)

Biology of Global Health

January 2014 – August 2015- Adjunct

August 2015- August 2017 – Visiting Faculty

Researcher- Minnesota Twin Cities Metropolitan Mosquito Control Study

July 2014- August 2017

- Collected data on rodent and tick population
- Analyzing rodent and tick population data and environmental influences
- Analyzing tick samples for infectious disease
- DNA extraction, PCR, and microbiome analysis of samples

Field Researcher- Cedar Creek Rodent Pilot Project

May 2012- 2015

University of Minnesota PI: Dr. Katey Pelican

- Collaborated on study design of project linking biodiversity to infectious disease
- Trapped multiple species of rodents
- Collected data including tissue and blood samples as well as ticks from trapped animals
- Analyzed samples for infectious disease

Research Assistant- Economically Motivated Adulteration

December 2011- June 2012

National Center for Food Protection and Defense, St. Paul, MN

- Organized data collection for EMA research program
- Researched food safety issues
- Researched and compiled EMA events from scientific literature for nutraceuticals
- Wrote a manuscript for publication on EMA of nutraceuticals
- Conducted preliminary analysis of U.S. customs and Border Protection data for dairy proteins

Student Worker Para-Professional- Foodborne Disease Unit 'Team D'

August 2011- December 2011

Minnesota Department of Health, St. Paul, MN

- Assisted in Epidemiologic investigations
- Supported food safety programs
- Performed case history interviews
- Collected and entered data from laboratory and hospital reports

Technical Advisor- Epidemiologist- Community Health Organizer- South Sudan Guinea Worm Eradication Program

May 2009- May 2010

The Carter Center, Kauto Payam, South Sudan

- Managed the Guinea worm eradication program for Kauto West in South Sudan, an area including over 240 villages
- Predicted outbreaks and risk areas using epidemiological information
- Planned for future outbreaks including treatment of water sources with pesticides and distribution of water filters to at-risk communities
- Performed community education and case searches amongst villages with volunteer staff
- Treated cases and supervised all case management and case containment
- Coordinated and completed a mass distribution of antibiotics for Trachoma in Kauto West as well as mobilization for Trachoma surgeries

Peace Corps Masters International Program Coordinator

March 2008 – May 2009

Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine

New Orleans, LA

- Oversaw and mentored Masters International (MI) students while in school and in the field

- Liaison between U.S. Peace Corps, Louisiana Returned Peace Corps Association and Tulane University

Public Health Peace Corps Volunteer

June 2005 - September 2007

United States Peace Corps, Kenya

- Underwent intensive 10 week training in language, culture, health and community entry
- Performed development specifically with HIV and Malaria
- Supported Community Based Organizations through education, training and grant writing

**Community Based Organization Development Consultant
(Peace Corps Volunteer)**

August 2006 - August 2007

Family Health International, under the APHIA II project, Narok, Kenya

- Oversaw the activities of two community based groups (one youth drama group and one group for sex workers)
- Worked with the local Voluntary Counseling and Testing center on outreach and HIV testing
- Organized training of trainers and sex worker outreach
- Built and distributed over 100 condom dispensers and thousands of free government and CDC condoms

Assistant District Coordinator (Peace Corps Volunteer)

August 2005 - July 2006

Population Services International, Busia District, Kenya

- Developed and implemented a school reproductive health program in 50 district schools, reaching over 2500 primary school students
- Oversaw training of trainers, pre and post testing, monitoring and evaluation, and logistics
- Managed educational theatre group to increase use of mosquito nets

ARTICLES:

Oliver JD, Bennett SW, Adolfs H, Bartholomay LC, 2017. Range expansion and increasing *Borrelia burgdorferi* infection of the tick *Ixodes scapularis* in Iowa, 1990-2013. *J Med Entomol*

POSTERS:

Ixodids Ticks from Three Agroecosystems in Uganda: An Insight into Tick Borne Coxiella spp. from Rural Uganda Omar Jiménez L, Katey Pelican, Innocent Rwego, Lawrence Mugisha, Jessica Evanson, Dominic Travis, Steve Bennett, Michael Mahero. iCOMOS 3rd International Conference, 2018

Small mammal abundance across a vegetative successional gradient: Using long-term ecological research sites to better understand wildlife ecology

Sarah Stafford, Steve Bennett, Shelby Williams, Meggan Craft, Katey Pelican
College of Veterinary Medicine, Summer Scholars Program
University of Minnesota, St. Paul

TEACHING:

HLED 150- Drugs and Society

Western Washington University- Bellingham WA

HLED 210- Intro to Public Health

Western Washington University- Bellingham WA

HLED 350- Nutrition

Western Washington University- Bellingham WA

HLED 397B Justice, Equity, Oppression and Health

Western Washington University- Bellingham, WA

HLED 407- Principles and Foundations of Public Health

Western Washington University- Bellingham WA

HLED 410- Health Communication and Social Marketing

Western Washington University- Bellingham WA

HLED 455- Health Education K-8

Western Washington University- Bellingham WA

INTL 401- Global Issues

Western Washington University- Bellingham, WA

INTL 437H- International Study- Kenya

Western Washington University- Bellingham, WA/ Kenya

BIOL 490- Ecology of Infectious Disease (lecture and lab)

University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minnesota

Developed course and lab

BIOL 480- Global Health Senior Capstone (Lecture and lab)

University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minnesota

Developed Course and lab

BIOL 467- Biology of Emerging Infectious Diseases (lecture and lab)

University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minnesota

BIOL 398- Parasitology (lecture and lab)

University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minnesota

Developed course lecture and lab materials

BIOL 209- Biology of Sustainability (core course)

University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minnesota

BIOL 208 Biological Communication and Energetics (core course)

University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minnesota

BIOL 198- Emerging Infectious Disease/ Global Health Lab
University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minnesota
Co-developed lab course (Non-majors course)

BIOL 363- Immunology Lab
St. Thomas University, St. Paul, Minnesota

Teaching Assistant- PUBH 3102- Environmental and Occupational Health
Fall 2012- Spring 2015
University of Minnesota, Minneapolis/St.Paul

Teaching Assistant- PUBH 6101- Issues in Environmental Health
University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, St.Paul
Co-developed course/materials

Teaching Assistant- PUBH 6102- Environmental and Occupational Health
University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, St.Paul
Co-developed course/ materials

Guest Lecturer- PUBH 7200 Public Health Systems in Developing Countries
Part of the Summer Public Health Institute
"The Role of Surveillance and Community Involvement in Disease Eradication"
5/25/12 University of Minnesota, Minneapolis

Guest Lecturer- PUBH 6342 Epidemiologic Methods II
"The Role of Surveillance in Disease Eradication"
4/24/12 University of Minnesota, Minneapolis

WORKSHOPS and EVENTS:

**Epidemiology Trainings-
Trainer (6 sessions)**
Whatcom County Health Department
Communicable Disease Unit 2019

15th Annual Western Regional Global Health Conference
"Criminalization of the Body": the health implications of oppression
Faculty Coordinator
Western Washington University, 2019

Sustainability Fellow
Western Washington University 2017-2018

Organizer- Global Health World Café: The Making of the HIV Epidemic
An Interdisciplinary workshop for students
University of St. Thomas April 2016

Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC)
University of St. Thomas 2016

Participant- Boreas Leadership Program

"Systems Thinking and Tools"

11/09/12-11/10/12 University of Minnesota, St. Paul

Participant- Ecology and Evolution of Infectious Disease 2012

"Ecology Workshop"

5/19/12- 5/23/12 University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

-Received \$1,000.00 NSF funding for participation-

Participant- Researching and Writing the Literature Review

4/06/12, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis

Boreas Leadership Program

"Building Better Presentations and Posters"

2/22/12 University of Minnesota, St. Paul

Community Partnerships: Oversaw Community Partnerships and Student Projects with the following organizations

- **Viva Farms**
- **Whatcom County Health Department**
- **United General**
- **American Cancer Society**
- **Skookum Kids**
- **Lummi Nation Schools**
- **Lummi Nation Health Clinic**
- **Bellingham School District**
- **Children's Council of Skagit County**
- **Island hospital**
- **PeaceHealth**
- **Swedish Cancer Institute**

ACTIVITIES:

Student Committee Chair, Minnesota Environmental Health Association 2012

Organizer and Moderator, Environmental Health Sciences Journal Club 2012

Presenter and Member, American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA, December 2008

Board Member, Louisiana Returned Peace Corps Association 2008-2009

Special Events Coordinator, Student Government, Tulane University 2008-2009

Member, Alpha Psi Omega, honor fraternity, Southwest Texas State 2002-2004