

to improving health care in the state of Rhode Island and spoke on the importance of highlighting the relationship between the environment and a healthy population.

The event marked the Rhode Island Public Health Association's first National Public Health Week celebration, but organizers told *The Nation's Health* that "the enthusiasm of the participants following the meeting made us confident that it was the first of many such meetings to come."

Graduate students in the Arnold School of Public Health at the University of South Carolina in COLUMBIA, S.C., used grant money from the Association of Schools of Public Health to create a communications campaign called "This is Public Health: Recycling Counts." The students launched the campaign at the South Carolina

Public Health Association's Public Health Month kick-off at the South Carolina State Museum, where they distributed

recycling bins and educational information. Students also promoted recycling efforts by reaching out to community members at the Richland County Public Library, Southeast Branch, and to university students in the Russell House student center and public health buildings.



The Public Health Association at the University of California at Irvine hosted a booth at the university's club fair on April 5.

Graduate students joined together to develop the campaign concept and write the grant application. The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control provided educational materials for distribution in the community and across campus. Other partners in the effort were the South



Students at the University of California at Irvine also planted trees on campus.

Carolina Public Health Association, the South Carolina Public Health Consortium, Healthy Carolina and the Southeast Branch of the Richland County Public Library.

The TENNESSEE Public Health Association's Public Health Week Committee organized activities that were held in counties and cities throughout the state in regional, metro and county health departments, local communities and on the campus of Tennessee



Events at the University of South Florida in Tampa included a blood drive, education fair, picnic and community health fairs.

State University. Among those activities, Monday, April 7, was designated as "Go Green at the Office" day in each health department. Staff were asked to wear green, and information was displayed in the lobby and waiting room on climate change and its connection to health along with "go green" fact sheets and tips. Monday also featured tree plantings with local youth groups or health councils. Throughout the week, walking programs with staff or community groups illustrated how walking, instead of driving, is good for both health and the planet.

The Affiliate also used funds to purchase water bottles emblazoned with APHA's National Public Health Week logo for distribution throughout the state during the week. The bottles included a "message in a bottle" giving facts on the benefits and importance of recycling, disposable water bottles' damage to the environment and other facts.

The Chattanooga-Hamilton County Health Department in CHATTANOOGA, TENN., launched a community education campaign and organized several employee activities to help increase awareness of climate change. Those included a climate change logo and slogan design contest as well as a week-long conservation challenge called "Random Acts of Conservation" that "caught" staff members in the act of conservation. Acts ranged from helping conserve energy by powering down computers at the end of the day to picking up litter and recycling. Eight local environmental agencies provided educa-

tional exhibits on topics such as recycling, biking to work, power conservation and air pollution. Friday featured a Public Health Week general assembly with remarks from the county mayor and a video presentation of Melissa Etheridge's "I Need to Wake Up."

Anderson County Health Department in CLINTON, TENN., organized an intra-office competition of four teams, challenging them to brainstorm the best ways the health department

could become more environmentally friendly. Inspired by the daily APHA e-mails on climate change, each team came up with a plan presented at a healthy potluck lunch at the monthly staff meeting. The department's recycling program was expanded, a vaccine form was changed from four pages to two and staff are planning a

vegetable garden to be tended by volunteers after work, among other ongoing green efforts.

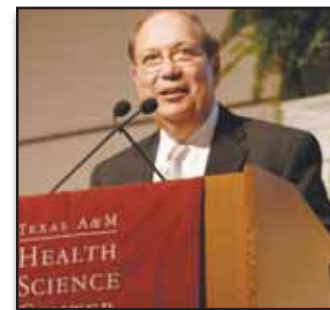
The TENNESSEE State University Department of Health Administration and Health Sciences Student Association, in conjunction with the Tennessee Public

Health Association, went green on Monday, distributed reusable water bottles on Tuesday, handed out literature attached to paper straws and natural pencils on Wednesday, sponsored a student-run

obesity workshop on Thursday and participated in the Williamson County Health Council's "Walk Across Williamson" in FRANKLIN, TENN., on Saturday.

At the University of Tennessee in KNOXVILLE, TENN.,

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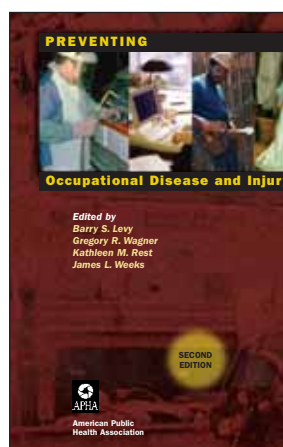
Ciro V. Sumaya, MD, MPHTM, dean of the Texas A&M Health Science Center School of Rural Public Health, speaks at an event.

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Eco-friendly activities held by many



Events held by students at the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University in Atlanta included a community volunteer day.

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university's libraries to promote National Public Health Week for students and faculty in the graduate veterinary public health program. Materials were displayed near the library's service desk, and Web and print resources on climate change were highlighted on the library's blog. Books, along with the April president's column from *The Nation's Health*

linking climate change, animal health and human health, remained on display through Earth Day in late April.

At the Southwestern District Health Unit in **DICKINSON, N.D.**, staff focused on how individuals can become healthier while creating a healthier planet. Residents were asked to take a "Healthy Climate Pledge" and to commit to making five small changes in their lives that can have a big impact on both the

climate and health. Other activities included the sixth annual "Take 10 at 2" events that were held at more than 20 area elementary schools within the eight southwestern North Dakota counties of Adams, Billings, Bowman, Dunn, Golden, Valley, Hettinger and Stark. The campaign is designed to have students as well as teachers and school staff participate in 10 minutes of healthy activity at 2 p.m. each day during National Public Health Week and then to continue the healthy activity for the remainder of the year. Each participating school received National Public Health Week posters, "Take 10 at 2" activity sheets and ideas to promote health beyond the week's festivities.

District-wide activities included free blood pressure screenings at public health offices in Beach, Bowman, Killdeer and Dickinson. Killdeer and Dickinson also hosted open houses for the public with special health displays and refreshments.

To encourage residents in **GRAND FORKS, N.D.**, to be aware of the connection between the way they lead their lives, their impact on the planet and the planet's impact on human health, the Grand Forks Public Health Department, University of North Dakota College of Nursing and the local Wal-Mart joined to promote a greener city. A light bulb swap on April 9 allowed residents to bring in a regular light bulb and exchange it for an energy-saving bulb.

Columbus Public Health in **COLUMBUS, OHIO**, created a week of climate change activities for its more than 500 employees. Each day featured a different theme, and whiteboards were used in place of paper products to publicize the day's events. The entire campaign, from brain-



Students at the University of South Carolina launched a recycling campaign, distributing recycling bins and educational information.

storming to planning to implementation, used only 12 pieces of paper. Monday featured e-mail instructions for opting out of junk mail lists and credit card offers. On Tuesday, employees purchased 90 reusable shopping bags and on Wednesday, they bought more than 250 compact fluorescent light

bulbs at a discount. Thursday focused on transportation, and employees could pick up a map showing restaurants and errand destinations within walking distance of the health department as well as receive information on local bus routes and a car-pool sign-up sheet. Friday spotlighted green cleaning with free bottles of homemade, all-purpose cleaner.

Researchers at the Ohio State University College of Public Health in **COLUMBUS, OHIO**, gathered some of the nation's top experts in

public health and the environment for a Web-based conversation on the current state of the planet's health. "Converging Environmental Crises" featured more than a dozen health and environmental experts who provided live and recorded presentations on topics such as global warming, overpopulation and energy depletion.

Also in Columbus on the Ohio State campus, a panel discussion with state and local leaders was held April 8 with the theme "In Sickness and Wealth." Sponsored by the College of Public Health, the event was based on the PBS series "Unnatural Causes" and highlighted how people's work conditions, social status, neighborhood conditions and lack of access to power and resources can affect their health status.

The **OHIO** Public Health Association sponsored a contest to encourage all health agencies, schools of public health and organizations to help public and local policy-makers understand the important connection between climate change and public health. The Zanesville-Muskingum



The Public Health Management Corporation in Philadelphia honored both the week and a staff birthday.

Chiropractic colleges hold local health celebrations

THE New York Chiropractic College in **SENECA FALLS, N.Y.**, was one of three chiropractic colleges to celebrate National Public Health Week. Students from the school's Public Health Club organized and distributed information about local community-supported agriculture and organic co-op programs.

At the Palmer College of Chiropractic in **DAVENPORT, IOWA**, a vendor fair for students, faculty and staff provided an opportunity to visit with community experts and learn about energy conservation, recycling, non-toxic paint and how to live a more eco-friendly lifestyle.

A campus-wide recycling project at the Cleveland Chiropractic College in **OVERLAND PARK, KAN.**, launched during National Public Health Week, and a special lecture on global climate change was presented. The school's Student Council sold green mugs in the dining hall that could be used to purchase refills in the school café at a discount and help reduce waste.



A fair at Palmer College of Chiropractic in Davenport, Iowa, featured information on recycling, energy conservation and eco-friendly living.

The American Chiropractic Association was an official National Public Health Week partner, and the Association of Chiropractic Colleges is an APHA agency member. ■



Students with the Tennessee State University Department of Health Administration and Health Sciences Student Association worked to raise awareness of climate issues.