



Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists

December 2020 Mentor Connection

Happy Holidays! As we close out 2020 and begin to think over some resolutions for the New Year, consider adding a goal that meaningfully contributes to your professional development.

Announcements

- The next [CSTE Annual Conference](#) will be held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on **June 13-June 17, 2021**.
 - [Abstract submission](#) is open and will remain open until **January 6, 2021**.
- [The CSTE Applied Epidemiology Fellowship](#) application closes **January 15, 2021**.
 - Email aef@cste.org for questions.
- [The CSTE Data Science Team Training Program](#) application closes **December 11, 2020**.
 - To begin the application process, request a link to the application via email (dstt@cste.org) by December 9, 2020. Email dstt@cste.org for questions.
- The [2020 CSTE Mentorship Program Orientation evaluation](#):
 - If you haven't completed the 2020 Mentorship Program Orientation

• If you haven't completed the 2020 Mentorship Program Orientation evaluation, please click [HERE](#) to complete the evaluation by Friday, December 11.

Basecamp Highlight

- If you have not yet joined the Basecamp group, you can do so [here](#). Please reach out to Symone Richardson at srichardson@cste.org if you are unable to join the group.
- We encourage you to continue to use Basecamp to engage with others beyond your assigned mentor/mentee(s). Feel free to send direct messages through the “Pings” feature.
- Contribute to “Campfire” discussion by sharing something you and your mentor have worked on together or a time your mentor has helped you.
- Feel free to add to the “Articles to Share” folder.

Optional Activities

Please complete each task individually and set up a time to discuss it together. You can set separate internal deadlines for each task or have a longer conversation about both at once. The activities have been posted on Basecamp.

- Goal setting exercise (Due at the end of January) *Located in “Docs & Files” on Basecamp*
 - This goal setting exercise is intended to help facilitate conversation between the mentor and mentee about goals and expectations for the program.

Upcoming Tasks

- [AHD Webinar Series: Partners for Public Health: Pima County Health Department and the University of Arizona](#): December 8, 2020, at 1:00 pm EST
 - From PHF: [AHD Learning Community](#) members Julia Flannery, BS, Organizational Development Program Manager for the Pima County Health Department, and Emily Waldron, MPH, Community Engagement and Outreach Coordinator, University of Arizona Zuckerman College of Public Health, will join the webinar to share this success story of an AHD partnership in action. Come hear about the approach they used to determine collaborative project opportunities, the nuts and bolts of the growing partnership, and how joint expertise contributed to the foundational underpinning of a coordinated pandemic response in their community. Additionally, they will share examples of how the AHD partnership played a vital role in the community response efforts and highlight plans for continued collaborations vitalized by the COVID-19 response experiences. Time will be available for questions and discussion.
- [Tableau Data Solutions Summit](#): December 10, 2020, at 1:00 pm EST
 - From Tableau: Tableau is on a mission to empower individuals to use data to create meaningful, lasting change in their organizations and in the broader world. Join us for this free, virtual event where you'll hear from thought leaders from the Wharton School, Stanford, Sysco, Globe Life Insurance, and Fox Corporation as we discuss how catalysts remove roadblocks, reduce barriers to change, uncover unconscious bias, and transform organizational cultures.

CSTE Membership Benefits and Involvement

Now is a great time to [become a CSTE member or renew your membership](#). Support from member dues adds value to the services and activities provided by CSTE. For more information about memberships, [click here](#).

As one member puts it:

“I think people should join CSTE to understand that we are part of a broader movement of professionals who are working to improve public health in America. It's easy to feel siloed and frustrated, but being part of a larger movement emphasizes the fact that we can, and are, making a difference.”

Mentors and mentees may want to explore involvement with the following groups:

- [Workforce Subcommittee](#)
- [Epi Methods](#)
- Early Career Professionals Workgroup
 - *Please reach out to Symone Richardson at srichardson@cste.org to join the Early Career Professionals Workgroup.*

Some of the benefits of membership include:

- Professional development opportunities, networking events, and resources for workforce development;
- Registration discount for CSTE Annual Conference;
- Access to the *Journal of Public Health Management and Practice*;
- Involvement in CSTE subcommittees;
- Opportunities to author position statements that help drive public health policy;
- Eligibility to serve on national advisory committees.

We invite you to invest in yourself. We also challenge you to invite someone to join CSTE who could benefit from membership!

Suggested Discussion Topics

Mentors and mentees should be communicating regularly, at least once a month throughout the program. These meetings can happen via video or phone call, email, or instant messenger—whatever works for you!

We will be providing some general discussion topics in each monthly Mentor Connection to help guide your conversations. See the list below for some ideas for this month:

- Discuss self-assessment and goal setting exercise results
- Other suggestions for discussion include:
 - Networking while working remotely.
 - Managing work/life balance over the holiday season.
 - Balancing hard skills (technical skills, database management, writing, facilitating/presenting) vs. soft skills (problem-solving, working in teams).
 - Resume/CV development.
 - Transitioning between positions within your agency.

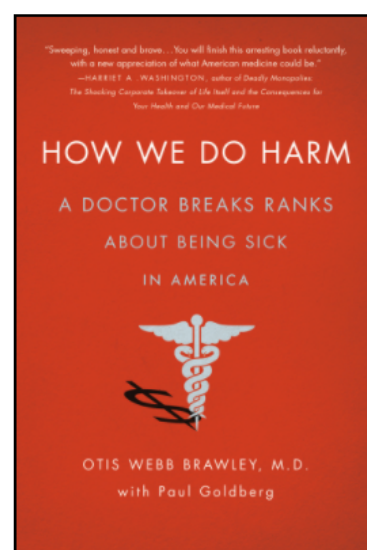
What Are You Reading?

What are you reading? We'd like to know, so tell us how you're expanding your mind these days, either personally or professionally (i.e., fiction or non-fiction, fantasy, graphic novels, etc.) and

either personally or professionally (i.e., fiction or non-fiction, fantasy, graphic novels, etc.) and we'll share them in each Mentor Connection. Submit authors and titles with a brief summary and critique to srichardson@cste.org and we'll take it from there.

This month's recommendation is, "[How We Do Harm: A Doctor Breaks Ranks About Being Sick in America](#) by **Ottis Webb Brawley (MD)** and **Paul Goldberg**.

From Amazon: "*How We Do Harm* exposes the underbelly of healthcare today—the overtreatment of the rich, the under-treatment of the poor, the financial conflicts of interest that determine the care that physicians' provide, insurance companies that don't demand the best (or even the least expensive) care, and pharmaceutical companies concerned with selling drugs, regardless of whether they improve health or do harm."

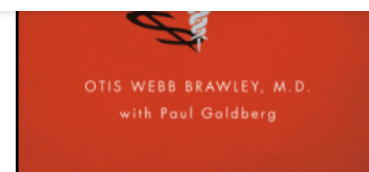


Note: While CSTE recommends these books for casual reading, the themes and ideas contained are those of the author, and CSTE does not necessarily endorse or promote them as part of the organizational mission/vision.

Get Inspired!

What inspires you? We will use this section to share motivational and thought-provoking content relevant to public health, professional growth, or other topics that you find meaningful to your work. Submit your favorite online articles, videos, podcast episodes, or series, etc. to srichardson@cste.org to be featured in the next Mentor Connection.

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This month we would like to highlight:

- [Public Health Programs See Surge in Students Amid Pandemic](#) - deBeaumont Foundation
- [Tailor your resume for the job at hand](#) - Work for Good
- [Managing Infodemics and Conspiracy Theories](#) (webinar slides) - Northwest Center for Public Health Practice



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