Dear Incoming Students,

On behalf of the Division of Public Health and the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine, I welcome you as you commence your graduate education in Public Health or Biostatistics. You join an impressive community of students who are advancing their graduate education in nationally and internationally recognized programs that are also premiere components of the School of Medicine at the University of Utah. Your pursuit of advanced understanding in these fields affords you membership into a historic and impressive legacy of achievement. You now join a heritage of discoveries that have enhanced the quality of life of people and communities throughout Utah, the nation and the world. Our profession requires a comprehensive understanding of many disciplines and a commitment to excellence to meet an abundance of health challenges that we face today. Our educational programs provide a secure pathway for you to be prepared to successfully confront the conflicts of today and tomorrow.

You have already accomplished much to arrive here, but that soon fades in importance to what you will achieve as graduate students and subsequently as future public health professionals and biostatisticians. We are fortunate to have an impressive and growing faculty who work with our committed staff to create an outstanding education environment. Our aim is to provide you with the opportunities that will allow you to attain the high standards necessary to become a confident health professional. Through our core curricula, you will gain a foundation of essential competencies to practice in the fields of public health, health research, and biostatistics. Through your elective curriculum, those competencies will evolve into greater expertise within focused areas.

I challenge you to devote the personal effort necessary to excel and to strive to be the best among an exceptional group of women and men. Your coursework, research and practicum experiences will establish the foundation for your subsequent professional growth in careers that requires lifelong learning. I also encourage you to take advantage of the many extracurricular opportunities that will be available to you.

On behalf of our faculty, and staff, I wish you all the rewards of dedication and hard work for a worthy cause. We look forward to sharing in your success.

Sincerely,

Christy Porucznik, PhD, MSPH
Associate Professor
Associate Chief, Education
Director of Graduate Studies
Division of Public Health, Department of Family and Preventive Medicine