

## SUMMER PUBLIC HEALTH SCHOLARS PROGRAM

# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:

## KWASI NYANTAKYI, MHA

Cohort: **3 (2014)**  
Currently located: **Philadelphia, PA**  
Hometown: **New York, NY**

Undergraduate institution: **University of Rochester**  
Graduation year: **2015**  
Major: **Bioethics**

Graduate school: **Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health**  
Graduation year: **2018**  
Degree: **MHA**

Current job title: **Director of Practice Operations**  
Organization: **Jefferson Health**



**How did SPHSP influence your career decisions?** SPHSP greatly influenced my career decisions. During undergraduate school, I was not sure what I would be able to do with my degree in Bioethics. SPHSP allowed me to learn about the diverse field of public health through structured courses with Columbia faculty and health services delivery through real-life work experience and field trips. I interned at an FQHC in the Bronx, NY and learned the importance of having health organizations in underserved communities while working with administrators and managers. Additionally, I saw the importance of mobilizing partnerships between different health institutions as well as healthcare marketing when trying to ensure that populations are aware of the health services available to them. These experiences motivated me to apply for Columbia's MHA program. After matriculation and graduation from the program, I was selected for the Administrative Fellowship at Thomas Jefferson University Hospitals where I worked closely with the senior leadership team on various projects. Now as a Director of Practice Operations at Jefferson's Department Psychiatry and Human Behavior, I oversee a practice with over forty clinicians including a psychiatrist, nurse practitioners, social workers, and psychologists.

**Proudest accomplishment:** The biggest accomplishment I am proud of was getting accepted into Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health. That would not have been possible without SPHSP. These opportunities have helped my career and will continue to help me throughout my healthcare career.

**Best SPHSP memory:** My greatest memory was during National Health Centers Week where we tabled for the community and marketed the health services available in the community.

**Favorite SPHSP course:** Introduction to Public Health by Dr. Fullilove  
**Most memorable lesson learned during SPHSP:** Always put people first.  
**Favorite quote:** "Where there is no struggle, there is no progress."  
**Hobbies:** Basketball, sightseeing, relaxing

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