

New BS in Public Health program

Accredited by CEPH, the nationally recognized accrediting body

THE COUNCIL ON EDUCATION FOR PUBLIC Health (CEPH), the nationally recognized accrediting body for public health programs and schools, met on Dec. 4, 2017. As a result, CEPH accredited the Bachelor of Science in Public Health (BSPH) at Andrews University. The accreditation seal reflects bachelor's- and master's-level education in public health at Andrews.

Each CEPH-accredited school and program goes through a rigorous accreditation process. By successfully completing this process, Andrews students are assured a quality educational experience. Other benefits include:

1. Eligibility to sit for the Certified in Public Health (CPH) exam administered by the National Board of Public Health Examiners (NBPHE).
2. Eligibility to take the Registered Environmental Health Specialist (REHS) exam administered by the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA).
3. Eligibility for public health internships and fellowships sponsored by various federal agencies.

The BSPH at Andrews University started Winter 2018 and offers two concentrations: Environmental Health and Social &

Behavioral Sciences. Environmental Health offers an excellent pre-med option for students. Andrews is the only Adventist university offering an undergraduate public health degree providing students with a versatile future that may include working as a public health practitioner, physician, dentist or pharmacist. Students joining the program who meet the criteria will receive a \$2,000 scholarship each year in addition to the Andrews Partnership Scholarship.



For more information, visit andrews.edu/go/bsph

H.E.L.P. Project hosts "The Nativity Story"

Benton Harbor High School students form the cast for the play

ON FRIDAY, DEC. 8, 2017, THE HUMAN Empowerment Life Project (H.E.L.P.) team hosted "The Nativity Story" in the Howard Center for approximately 460 grades 2–5 students from the Benton Harbor area.

Carlisle Sutton, director of Community Engagement, Integration & Service at Andrews University, led the event with the assistance of many others, including David Faehner, vice president for University Advancement; Alayne Thorpe, dean for the Schools of Graduate Studies and Distance Education & International Partnerships; and Elynda Bedney, assistant vice president for Student Financial Services. Marguerite Samuels, director of the musical ministry Journey, and Stephen Zork, professor of music and conductor of Andrews University Singers, performed musical selections.

The local community also contributed to make this event possible. Sutton says, "Principals, teachers, parents and the administration of the Benton Harbor area schools all worked to ensure the students were afforded the opportunity to attend."

Ronnika Williams, from the Boys and Girls Club, partnered with Sutton to mentor students in learning their roles for the play. Neighbor to Neighbor in Berrien Springs helped by providing the stage props.

The Nativity Story event first took place in 2016 when Sutton learned of the Benton Harbor schools' need of holiday programming. It provides an opportunity to expose the students to high-quality acting by using an historical approach to the nativity story that incorporates life lessons on issues pertinent to the children.

The choice to involve the Andrews University Department of Music was also a very intentional decision to infuse different genres of music throughout the drama. Sutton explains, "We believe that early exposure to interesting experiences in a university environment will also increase the elementary students' interest in learning, foster a desire to work toward attending university and build a college-bound culture."

This is the first year that the cast for the play was chosen from Benton Harbor High School students rather than Andrews students. Additionally, Xiomara "Pepper" Urbina, a third-grade community student, helped with the music. According to Sutton, the high school students have already been profoundly impacted with the experience of acting in this program. Because of their experience, they are all interested in being part of a drama club. He says, "The H.E.L.P. team believes a drama club would continue



to give disadvantaged students opportunities to develop self-confidence and demonstrate skills that they work hard to perfect."

The ultimate hope is that this Christmas program will continue to bless the Benton Harbor Area community as well as Andrews participants. This hope was seen in the eyes of the children as they excitedly watched the play and clapped with the music. It was seen through the high school actors as they began to understand their potential for greatness and worked to harness and direct their talent in positive ways.

Sutton says, "I hope that we at Andrews University will continue to appreciate the blessings we have been afforded, continue to be intentional about connecting in meaningful ways, and go the distance to help others understand their inestimable value."