Nick is currently engaged in a wide array of funded research projects. One such project, funded by the New Mexico Office of the Superintendent for Insurance (OSI), is investigating how Marketplace patients’ utilization rates vary across time and metal levels. Preliminary results suggest Marketplace patients are sicker and utilize more healthcare in their first year of Marketplace coverage. Another research project—funded by UNM’s Center for Regional Studies (CRS)—is examining how NM Medicaid expansion patients are facing access-related issues, such as excessively long wait times for appointments and providers not accepting Medicaid. Preliminary results suggest these patients are more likely: to have utilized the ED, to have postponed necessary care in the past year, to be diabetic, and to have lower self-rated general and mental health. A third project Nick is working on—an RO1 funded by the NIH—is investigating the cost effectiveness of an RCT focused on improving colorectal cancer screening adherence in the Native American population of New Mexico. Finally, Nick is currently investigating physician prescribing behaviors across an array of practice characteristics including employment contract type and levels of HIT attainment. Results suggest capitation does not motivate providers to prescribe generics over brand name drugs and that meaningful use attainment has improved prescribing behaviors.

Nick continuously integrates his research findings with his teaching, particularly in his Health Information Technology (PADM 611), Health Economics (PADM 566), and Research Methods for Public Managers (PADM 596) courses. Nick often uses data from his research projects as sample data for his PADM 596 course—where students are challenged to replicate his findings and gain exposure to the “ugly side” of primary data. Nick believes this is a critical skill for students to master as modern healthcare organizations now possess troves of data, but seldom use these data to improve decision-making.
DR. KATE CARTWRIGHT

Dr. Kate Cartwright is a medical sociologist and public health scholar. She brings research expertise in health equity in access to and quality of care for patients with chronic conditions, with a special focus on delivering culturally responsive care and integrating standards of culturally competent care in health administration as well as clinical practice. She recently finished a year as a Minority Serving Institution Fellow with the American Evaluation Association, where she worked closely with a team of evaluators to hone best practices in culturally responsive evaluation.

Dr. Cartwright is engaged in a number of community health projects at UNM. She facilitated the spring 2016 internship experiences for MHA students, where she worked with practicum preceptors at a number of New Mexico healthcare organizations. Dr. Cartwright has an affiliate position with the BA/MD program, where she prepares undergraduate BA/MD students for their summer rural health practicum experiences. She recently was part of a team which secured a McCune Charitable Foundation grant to support the student-led work at UNM Community Engagement Center to help students understand the Affordable Care Act and to assist students in accessing health insurance and health care.

Dr. Cartwright and Dr. Nick Edwardson received a Center for Regional Studies grant to conduct a representative survey of social determinants of health in New Mexico in collaboration with the graduate student fellows of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Center for Health Policy at UNM.

Dr. Cartwright has a passion for helping students bridge their professional goals with academic opportunities. In addition to facilitating the internship experience in Spring 2017, she co-developed an original research project with MHA student Dona Bou Eid, on religion and the ethics of infertility treatment using the National Survey of Fertility Barriers, which was inspired by Ms. Bou Eid’s volunteer internship experience at the Ronald O. Perelman and Claudia Cohen Center for Reproductive Medicine of Weill Cornell Medical College.

When not researching or teaching, Dr. Cartwright also volunteers as a coach for Girls on the Run, a non-profit program which uses running as a platform to empower girls to live healthy and balanced lives.
STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Valoree Althoff, RDH, BS, PRP graduated from the UNM in 2004 with a BS in dental hygiene. She is the current American Dental Hygienists' Association District IX Trustee, representing the interests of 150,000 dental hygienists across the nation. Valoree concurrently serves the National Association of Parliamentarians as the NM President and NAP District 6 Director. A MHA degree is valuable to Valoree to increase access to services, particularly oral care utilizing a dental hygienist, in the hospital and allied settings.

Mickayla Karikari is originally from western Wisconsin, and holds Bachelor's degrees in Biomedical Biology, Chemistry, and Medical Laboratory Science. As a certified Medical Laboratory Scientist, she currently supervises a Clinical Research Laboratory at UNM HSC. Over halfway done with the MHA program, Mickayla seeks to move into the operations side of healthcare delivery after graduation. She is interested in improving communication between caregiver groups and in healthcare.

Jallahou Baigebo Sandy is an MHA student who has also earned his undergraduate degree from UNM. Jallahou started at UNM in 2012 after he completed two associate programs from the Central New Mexico community college. While at CNM, Jallahou founded the African Students Association at CNM, and served as the organization’s president from 2010 to 2012. Jallahou currently works for UnitedHealth Group as a Medical Claim Administrator and is volunteering at the VA hospital as patience service advocate. Jallahou’s goals are to complete his MHA degree and start a Doctorate of Behavioral Health program at Arizona State University.
ALUMNI SUCCESS
Michael Wallace

While having "MHA" appear after my name on business cards and email signatures is pretty snazzy, the degree has meant a lot more than that for my career. I am about to begin a new chapter of my life at DaVita (formerly Albuquerque Health Partners) after having spent 10 years with Delta Dental of New Mexico. I will get the opportunity to lead healthcare innovation projects and work with leadership to develop the policies that shape the business, and ultimately, the patient experience. This has been made possible by my MHA degree. The degree demonstrates a crucial knowledge of subjects like population health, global health, health economics, cultural competency, health IT, and healthcare finance. Furthermore, it is evidence of a commitment to a career in healthcare, and paves the way for reaching and being a high performer at the executive level.

I WILL GET THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEAD HEALTHCARE INNOVATION PROJECTS ... THIS HAS BEEN MADE POSSIBLE BY MY MHA DEGREE.
SAHA & NMHE EVENT, SANTA FE, NM

On March 2ND, SAHA and NMHE hosted an event in Santa Fe where students, healthcare executives, and legislators met to discuss the important healthcare issues for our state. At the event, NMHE and SAHA announced this year's student scholarship recipients to attend the American College of Healthcare Executive's annual Congress in Chicago, Illinois.

Board Members of New Mexico Healthcare Executives, State Senators, and Student recipient winners of the NMHE Scholarship to head to the American College of Healthcare Executives' Congress in Chicago, Illinois.
CONTACT INFORMATION

JAMES PENDERGAST
MHA Program Manager
Phone: (505) 277-3074
Office: SSCO 3038
Email: pend@unm.edu

DR. KUN HUANG
Associate Professor | MHA Faculty Coordinator
Ph.D., University of Arizona, AZ
Phone: (505) 277-7757
Office: SSCO 3002
Email: khuang@unm.edu
Curriculum Vitae