



Public Health Research and Teaching From a Global Perspective

Leslie E. Cofie
Department of Health Education and Promotion
East Carolina University,
Greenville, North Carolina 27858
cofiel18@ecu.edu

Teaching Philosophy

Facilitate student growth as public health professionals and responsible citizens capable of learning, processing, and tackling issues of health equity.

- **Employ various teaching techniques** for course materials: e.g., group discussions, short presentations, and individual assignments/reflections
- Students apply lessons learned to **build on their critical thinking and writing skills** and **acquire tangible experiences beyond the classroom**.
- Provided all avenues to **enhance student learning experience**: e.g., mentorship, guest lectures, and student lectures.

Course Teaching

- HLTH3020 Understanding and Achieving Health Equity
- HLTH3520 Introduction to Global health
- HLTH4901 Public Health Research Experience

Scholarship Accomplishments

My scholarship perspective - Health issues affecting populations in different world regions are often salient to the health experiences of similar populations in the U.S. My research goals include:

- 1) Improving the health of immigrant populations in the US:
 - a. Understanding social determinants cancer screening among Foreign born populations.
 - b. Interventions to improve access to social and health enabling services to migrant and seasonal farmworker families in North Carolina.
- 2) Advancement of cancer control efforts in Ghana.

Grants Funded

- NC Office of Digital Equity and Literacy, 2023-2025 (PI)
- Institute of Museum and Library Services, 2022-2025 (Co-I)
- DHHS - HRSA/Maternal and Child Health Bureau, 2021-2026 (Co-I)
- State Library of North Carolina, 2020-2021 (Co-I)
- G08 1G08LM013198-01, National Library of Medicine, 2019- 2022 (Co-I)

35 Peer Reviewed Manuscript Publications: Examples with Students

Harwell EL, LePrevost CE, Cofie LE, Lee JGL. Community Health Workers' Role in Addressing Farmworker Health Disparities. J Agromedicine. 2022 Feb 23:1-11. doi: 10.1080/1059924X.2022.2040069. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 35168470.

Cofie L, Tailor H, Lee MW, Xu L. HPV vaccine uptake among foreign-born Blacks in the U.S.: Insights from the National Health Interview Survey 2013-2017. Cancer Causes Control. 2022 Jan 16. doi: 10.1007/s10552-021-01550-x. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 35034260.

Cuevas AG, Cofie L, Nolte, S. Race/ethnic differences in obesity among US veterans and non-veterans, national health interview survey (2013-2017). Am J Health Promot. 2021 Dec 3:8901171211052994. doi: 10.1177/08901171211052994. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 34860589.

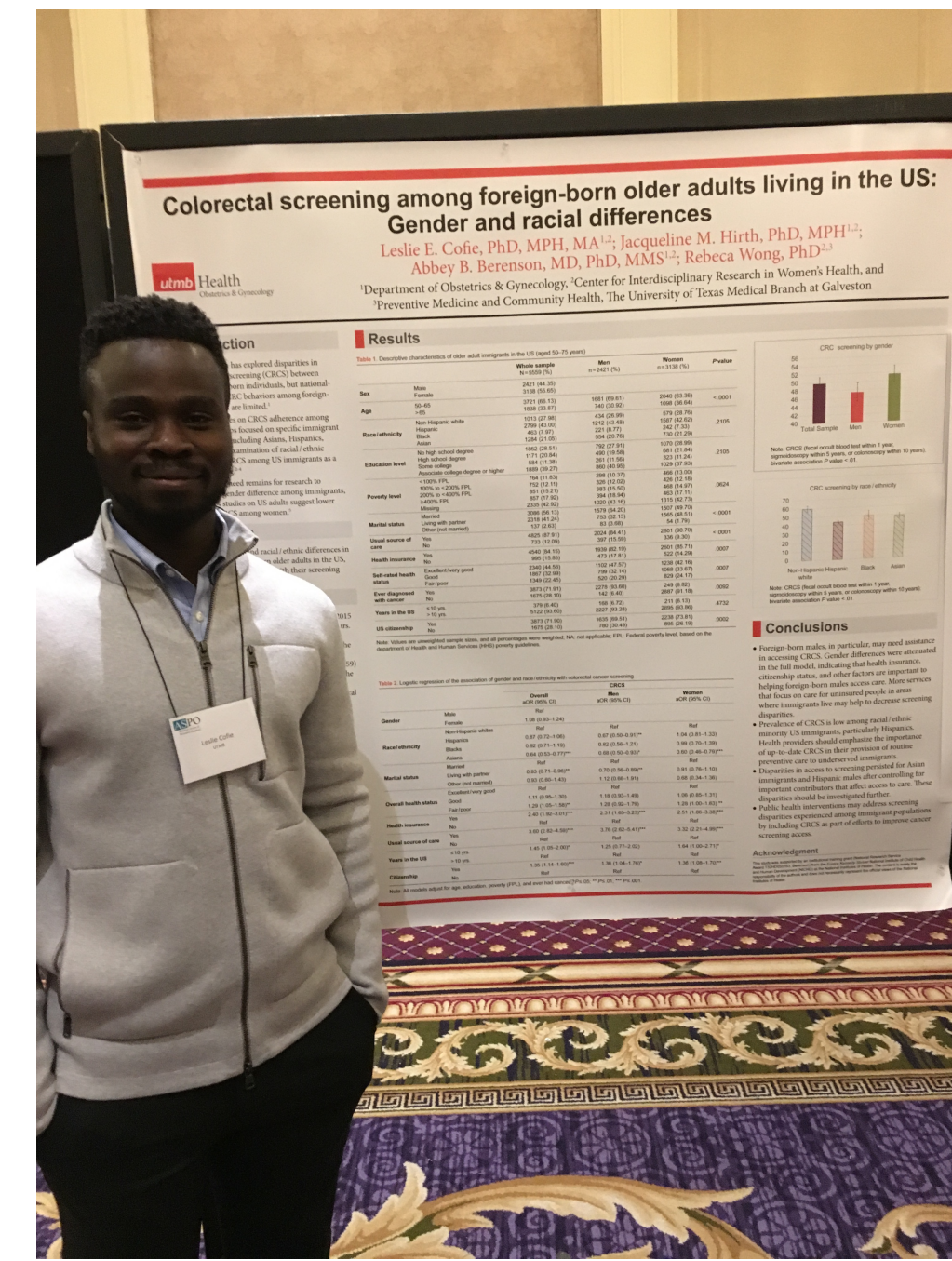
39 Conference Presentations: Examples with Students

Cofie LE., Bhagat N. Personal Networks and Cancer Screening Among Black Immigrant Women. Oral presentation at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting & Expo, Boston, MA (November 6-9, 2022).

Cofie LE., Reed E, Akaligaung A, Tackie-Ofosu V, Dodor B. The Role of Nongovernmental Organizations in Addressing the Burden of Cancers in Ghana. Oral presentation at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting & Expo, Boston, MA (November 6-9, 2022).

Alligood, B, Cofie LE. HPV vaccine uptake and infection among foreign-born adults in the US, NHANES 2007-2016. Poster presentation at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting & Expo, Virtual (October 24-27, 2021).

Research/Creative Activity In Classroom Teaching



- I integrate my research activities in my course instructions by inviting both my students and research collaborators to be guest speakers in my classes.
- I integrate examples of current public health and global health practice and research to provide context for student learning: i.e., my own work in rural agricultural communities, US immigrants like Black immigrants, cancer health disparities, and maternal and child health and cancer control in Ghana.
- I instruct students in independent courses during which they worked on projects related to my research activities: e.g., A senior thesis on understanding nativity differences in HPV infection and vaccination trends, and a maters' thesis on cancer control activities and data collection in Ghana.

Development Of Student Scholars

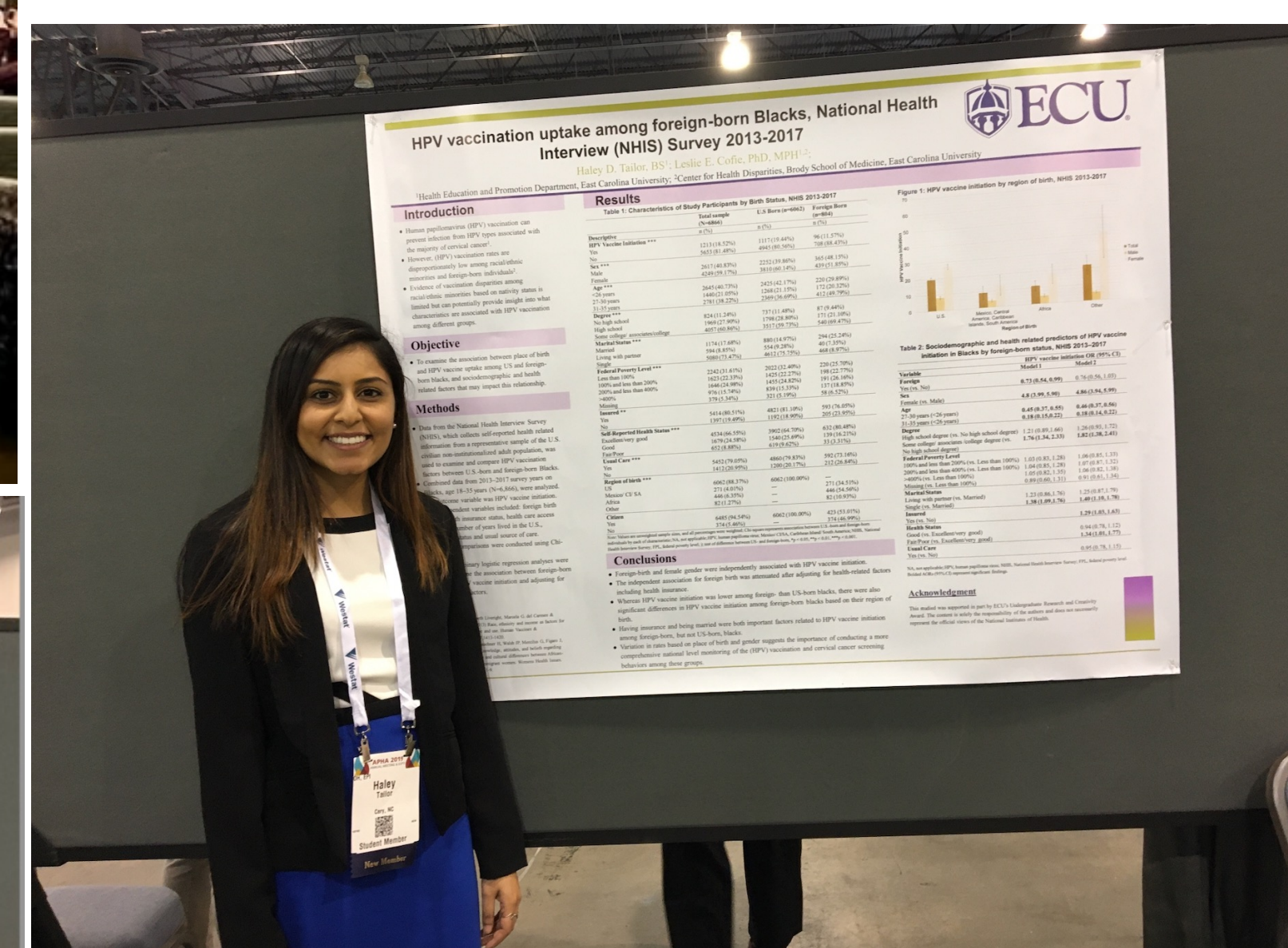
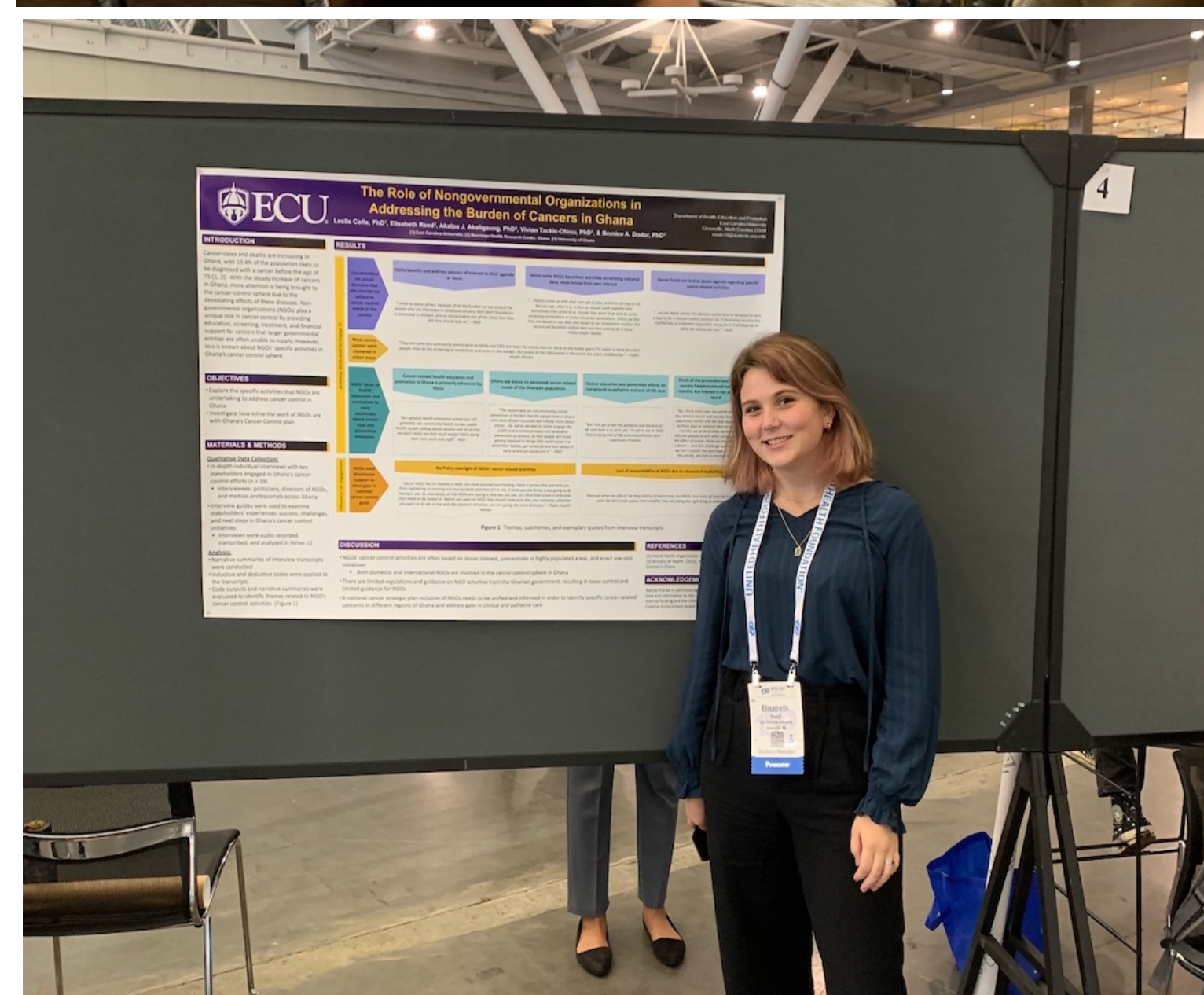
My research mentorship of students is driven by one simple goal: **to provide guidance, research and training opportunities for hard working students that may otherwise not have access to mentorship and exposure to undergraduate research opportunities.**

Six undergraduate mentees received the *Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity award*, and three more received the *Undergraduate Research Mini award*, to support their participation in some of my projects.

Four mentees presented our work at the American Public Health Association Annual meetings. 2 mentees are coauthors on two separate manuscripts.

I mentored four graduate research assistants from ECU's Master of Public Health program. One is a coauthor on a project that received a podium presentation at the 2019 APHA conference. Another, is a coauthor on a manuscript currently under peer review.

I mentored an undergraduate and a PhD student from North Carolina State university (NCSU). The former is a coauthor on two manuscripts related to our farmworker health projects. The PhD student, will be a co-author on our latest evaluation paper in progress.



Colleague Feedback Examples

"A common theme in student feedback and an observation I've made over the last five years is that Dr. Cofie always makes time for students. He meets with them individually and in groups to answer their questions, provide detailed explanations and examples, and further their understanding and application of the course content."

"Dr. Cofie's work makes an impact on our students through mentoring. Dr. Cofie is working closely with students on these projects and helping advance their careers and development through training on qualitative methodology, providing research opportunities, and leveraging student expertise in the development and implementation of evaluation systems."

"One main strength of Dr. Cofie in the classroom is the way that he incorporates scholarship and research in the classroom experience by exposing students to examples of research activities, inviting his collaborators to guest lecture, and allowing interested students to gain research experience on his projects."

Student Feedback Examples

"Dr. Cofie is sincerely one of the best professors I have had at ECU. He made learning the content very engaging and really emphasized the importance of the content. As an instructor, Dr. Cofie was ALWAYS available for us to speak to with questions or concerns and he really cares for his students. Many students complained about the workload, but it was in our best interests to complete the assignments to the best of our ability. Dr. Cofie genuinely was an awesome instructor. I feel like the biggest strength of this course is Dr. Cofie and his teaching style. I've never felt more prepared for graduate school with the challenges of this course."

"The Professor's expectation of students' maturity, self-motivation, timely completion of required material, and class interaction was extremely helpful in material understanding, material application, academic growth and personal growth of the students. The Professor was also flexible and fair in assessing individual student needs. The Professor consistently presented multiple specific opportunities available to all ECU students to assist them in their academic success and their own availability to students both of which were very beneficial."

Mentee Feedback Examples

"I genuinely feel lucky that I have come to know Dr. Cofie. It is not often that you find an individual who is so invested in and willing to work with students. I owe an immense amount of credit to him as he was able to help shape me to be a better public health professional."

"As a mentor, he ensures that I am supplied with ample resources and opportunities to support my growth and development as a student and professional. He encourages his mentees to pursue opportunities that are relevant to their future career goals, while also getting to know them as students. He takes a hands-off approach by working with students to pursue projects that they are passionate about, while also supplying the necessary guidance to ensure it is done correctly. His approach to mentoring and teaching gives students the flexibility to pursue their personal interests and facilitating their growth."

Dr. Cofie instilled confidence in me to help me believe that I am capable of achieving beyond limits. Dr. Cofie always keeps his student's best career interests in mind by continuously seeking opportunities that might benefit them. He is very willing to share his expertise and eager to invest in the growth potential of his students. Additionally, his honest and direct feedback has made for unmatched learning opportunities."