



Cynthia Chafin, Ph.D., MCHES® currently serves as the director for Middle Tennessee State University's Center for Health and Human Services (CHHS), a primarily externally funded public health focused research and outreach center on campus, previously serving as interim director from 2015-2018, and as a project director from 2002-2015. Dr. Chafin completed her Health and Human Performance Degree at MTSU with a specialization in health. She has a Master of Education in health promotion and education from Vanderbilt University's Peabody College, and a Bachelor of Business Administration from Middle Tennessee State University. She was part of the first national cohort to receive the MCHES® designation,

an advanced-level certification as a master certified health educator from the National Commission on Health Education Credentialing (NCHEC).

Dr. Chafin has a lengthy history in public health having worked for and with the state health department along with multiple local, state, and national non-profit and community-based organizations as a volunteer, project director, and consultant. She began her public health career in 1996 as the first Community Development Coordinator for the Tennessee Department of Health Mid-Cumberland Region, forming the first county health council in the state of Tennessee in Rutherford County which is still active today.

Dr. Chafin's work was recently recognized in the Spring 2024 Research Magazine featuring the personal impact of a \$1.2 million opioid use disorder project she was awarded and co-led in a HRSA designated rural service area. She was recognized earlier in the 2023 MTSU Research Magazine as one of only seven members of the MTSU campus community included in the \$5.0 Million Club for receiving externally funded awards totaling over \$5.0 million over her career at MTSU as CHHS Director. She has also been featured in the Winter 2018 and

Summer 2023 MTSU Magazine, and the Spring 2018 MTSU Research Magazine. She has been awarded the Health Educator of the Year award from the Tennessee Public Health Association and received the inaugural Eloise Q. Hatmaker Distinguished Service Award from the Rural Health Association in 2009 for her public health work in rural Tennessee communities. Her projects and research have received numerous national and state awards including recognition by the Women Survivors Alliance (2017), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2012), Rural Health Association of Tennessee's "Exemplary Project Award (2009) and the National March of Dimes Dr. Audrey Manley Award (2006) for development and implementation of prenatal smoking cessation intervention that provided on-one counseling to over 13,000 pregnant Tennessee WIC patients in all 95 Tennessee counties.

Dr. Chafin's interest and experience in public health is broad, though specific areas of interest and experience include substance use and misuse, mental health, healthy lifestyles and chronic disease prevention, cancer control and prevention as well as cancer survivorship. She is currently involved in research and projects focusing on substance use and misuse (including opioid use disorder), mental health, and diabetes prevention, all important to overall health and wellness, along with other current CHHS projects. She has co-founded internship programs for three organizations and has served as a mentor and supervisor to more than 70 students as of spring 2024 and is a frequent guest lecturer on the MTSU campus. She along with colleagues founded the MTSU CHHS Office of Prevention Science and Recovery in 2023. She is active in multiple public health and community services activities.