

AMANDA SPICKARD

ASSISTANT DEAN FOR RESEARCH STRATEGY
AND DEVELOPMENT
DEAN'S OFFICE



A SUCCESS STORY

Amanda has a very compelling and motivating story, which is no surprise due to her energetic and positive personality. Her career path started when she received her Bachelor degree in Philosophy; this is where she began to understand the power of building knowledge and discovery by working closely with others. She furthered this knowledge by interning within the Philadelphia court system, and soon after completed her Master in Public Policy at Johns Hopkins University.

From there, Amanda's career took off. She started working as a Federal Policy Analyst within the US Department of Labor in Washington, DC, which allowed her to identify social problems and use her creativity and analytical mind to create and test solutions to such problems. By the time she left the Department of Labor, she was managing a very large portfolio of demonstration and legislative projects – this experience set her up for success in her next role at Ohio University's Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs.

In her 7 years at Ohio University, Amanda worked her way up to the role of Senior Leader and Manager of the Government Development Group, honing in on her strengths and interests in applied research. She had found her passion and her calling. She worked diligently to create lasting relationships with both internal and external stakeholders, securing a substantial financial portfolio that was influential in funding the school's research and executive education programs. She had landed many grants, contracts, and funds, and assisted in developing what was once a small institute into a multidisciplinary, degree-granting school. While Amanda is very humble about her success, it was through hard work, dedication, and passion that she found her dream job at the Harvard School of Public Health.

Amanda joined SPH in 2010 as the Senior Associate Director of Research Strategy and Development. At that time, the Office of Research Strategy and Development was a relatively new office in the school; this meant that Amanda would have the ability to come in and right away, leverage her strengths in strategy and problem-solving. This new undertaking wouldn't be easy, especially with a weak economy and federal budget deficits. Throughout her 5 years here though, Amanda has spearheaded organizational and partnership development – to work with faculty and research professionals here at the T.H. Chan School of Public Health, and numerous funding agencies outside of SPH, to fund the research projects that support the mission of our school.

Amanda's career has allowed her to truly develop her own expertise and enterprise in Research Strategy and Development, which we know she will continue to define through her hard work and success here at SPH!
Recommendations for Staff

- Find Challenges and Stretch your Skills: Since starting at SPH, Amanda has participated in many professional development trainings and courses (such as the Foundations of Leadership, courses at the CWD, and Platinum Presence). In addition to these more formal resources, there are also many informal ways to develop your skills further – through mentor-ship, networking, and many more. Amanda believes that it's important to utilize these resources and truly challenge yourself to do so; the connections that can be made here are invaluable to success and long-term career growth and development.
- Forgive your Knowledge Gaps: Instead of focusing on perceived weaknesses or what you 'can't' do, focus on defining your current role in a way that hones in on your skills and strengths. Look for opportunities to develop those strengths, which will assist you in filling those gaps over time.
- Target your Goals: In choosing next steps in your career, assess opportunities and your personal trajectories.
- Identify where you are looking to go, and find ways to get yourself there. Also, be sure to identify what you don't know (not only what you do know). This will allow you to ask key questions along the way and work on the areas that will make you a well-rounded contributor to your individual role and department, as well as the school as a whole.

What Do You Like Most About Working at SPH?

Amanda's favorite part of working at SPH is the people. In her role, she works directly with faculty who are global leaders in science. She also works with staff of all levels — those that are the best of the best in their field. Amanda is inspired by these people, and also by her work. She takes pride in SPH's projects and discoveries in science; she is driven by a core belief that two of the most direct ways to improve the world are by helping people apply their talents and securing the resources they need to maximize their contributions. That is undoubtedly why Amanda enjoys being a member of the team here at SPH!