

David Buys Named Chair of the National Board of Public Health Examiners



WASHINGTON, D.C. — [September 16, 2025] — The National Board of Public Health Examiners (NBPHE) is proud to announce the appointment of David R. Buys, PhD, MSPH, CPH, FGSA, as Chair of its Board of Directors. Dr. Buys will serve a two-year term leading the Board as NBPHE continues its mission to advance the public health profession through certification.

Dr. Buys, Associate Vice Provost for Health Sciences and Interim Head of Campus at Mississippi State University-Meridian, is a long-time leader in research, education, and workforce development, and assumes the role at a critical moment for the field of public health.

“It is a privilege to step into this role at a pivotal time for public health,” said Dr. Buys. “NBPHE’s work to uphold rigorous standards through certification strengthens not only our profession, but also the health and security of the communities we serve. As we continue to recover from the pandemic and confront ongoing workforce challenges, credentialing provides a foundation of trust, excellence, and resilience that our field urgently needs.”



Founded in 2005, NBPHE strengthens the public health workforce by offering certifications that validate essential knowledge and skills in the field.

NBPHE extends its deep gratitude to Paul Halverson, DrPH, FACHE, CPH, who has completed his term as Chair of the Board. Dr. Halverson, recently appointed Dean of the OHSU-PSU School of Public Health, provided steady leadership and vision during a time of rapid change for the field.

The organization also recognizes Richard Kurz, PhD, CPH, who is concluding his service on the board. Dr. Kurz, Dean Emeritus at the University of North Texas Health Science Center, will remain an active contributor to NBPHE’s Publications and Research Committee as well as the Certification Committee, where his expertise and guidance continue to strengthen the organization’s thought leadership.

“All of us at NBPHE are grateful for the dedicated service of Dr. Halverson and Dr. Kurz, whose leadership has helped us expand the scope and impact of certification in public health. At the same time, we are thrilled to welcome Dr. David Buys as our new Chair. His expertise, vision, and commitment to strengthening the workforce will help guide NBPHE as we build on this momentum and continue to grow,” said Allison Foster, MBA, CAE, CPH, President of NBPHE.

With Dr. Buys as Chair, NBPHE’s Board of Directors will continue to advance certification as a unifying standard for the field of public health.

About NBPHE

The National Board of Public Health Examiners (NBPHE) was established to professionalize the field of public health through certification. By developing and administering certification programs, NBPHE promotes professional excellence, advances the field, and protects the health of communities. Learn more at www.nbphe.org.