

## Oregon Master of Public Health Program 2009 Student Excellence Awards

### **Outstanding Student Award, Excellence in Service**

#### **Catherine Gonzalez – Maddux Epidemiology & Biostatistics Track, OHSU**

The Oregon Master of Public Health Program is proud to recognize Catherine Gonzalez-Maddux for her excellence in service. With a passion for social responsibility and service she has made significant and positive contributions in the field of public health.

She has been involved in a wide range of volunteer activities and has given an abundant amount of her time, energy and passion to each of them. She has served her community as a Volunteer Leader for Hands on Greater Portland. She has provided invaluable service to the community through her involvement with the MIKE Program using her skills to extend and improve quantitative analysis of the youth mentoring projects and completing an extensive data analysis report. She serves as a Bilingual Community Outreach Volunteer and Medical Interpreter for the American Red Cross conducting outreach and medical translation. In 2008, she was recognized as a nominee for the Oregon Governor's Outstanding Adult Volunteer Award and was honored with the Rising Star Award for Community Service by the OHSU Student Council.

Service and social responsibility is something that Catherine cares deeply about and prioritizes in her academic and professional life. She is well respected by students, faculty, practicing professionals as a leader in community service. Please join us in congratulating her!

### **Outstanding Student Award, Excellence in Research**

#### **Rebecca Marshall, Epidemiology & Biostatistics Track MD/MPH, OHSU**

Rebecca Marshall is recognized for her master's thesis titled "Association Between Patient Activation and Outcomes in HIV-Infected Patients." Ms. Marshall investigated a concept and applied a tool called the Patient Activation Measure (PAM), a previously validated measure of patient activation. Her thesis represents a topic that she feels passionate about—the importance of a patient being empowered to be active in his or her own health care.

She was effective in developing her research idea, and successful in coordinating and collaborating with other clinicians and academics to examine the role of patient activation among HIV infected subjects. Her preparation and initiative allowed for PAM to be included in a national study of patient provider communication in HIV clinical settings, the Enhancing Communication and Health Outcome (ECHO) study.

She developed a hypothetical model for the association between patient activation and clinical outcomes in patients with HIV. Her findings suggest that the PAM can be used in an HIV-infected population to identify how "activated" the patient is, what interventions will be particularly helpful in increasing their activation level, and how well these interventions may be working. Her research also identified other patient characteristics that may serve as flags to providers that certain patients may be at higher risk of poor self management behaviors and adherence.