

Descriptive Text: Green chalkboard background with chalk drawings of science and math activities. Blue CDC logo in bottom right corner.

CDC Behavioral Scientist Laura Kollar, PhD, shares her story.

Text on Screen: CDC NERD Academy Public Health Careers: Behavioral Scientist

Laura: I collaborate as a researcher and a behavioral scientist at CDC with many other professionals. These may include epidemiologists, other scientists, public health practitioners and community members or community leaders to help implement and conduct research and evaluation within our communities to prevent violence. It's really important that we have built partnerships and strengthen our connections with others so that we know what works to prevent violence.

Find what you're passionate about. It's really important that you dig deeply and delve and learn everything that you can that inspires you and that you can follow for your passion. For me, that means working in violence prevention and really learning how to help our communities prevent violence and help families and individuals continue to lead healthy and happy lives.

I didn't even realize that I was doing public health as a student. For me, I was really involved in the Asian Pacific American community, and within that I took part in forming all kinds of different celebratory events or forming wellness events such as how to de-stress during finals or other activities that are all public health.

This means that you really need to just stay connected, be involved and plan events that help build those relationships within your community, because that is public health.

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