

**NEWS RELEASE**  
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## **'Health in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century' summit set for Dec. 6 at KU**

*Session to focus on 'Bold Solutions for Healthier Kansas Communities'*

**LAWRENCE** – Dr. Brian Castrucci, [president and CEO](#) of the de Beaumont Foundation, will give the Canuteson Lecture during the “Health in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Summit 2019: Bold Solutions for Healthier Kansas Communities” on Dec. 6 at the Kansas Union on the University of Kansas campus.

The de Beaumont Foundation seeks to create and invest in bold solutions that improve the health of communities across the country, especially in giving every person the opportunity to achieve their best health, regardless of where they live.

“Dr. Castrucci is a national leader in driving change in public health,” said Vicki Collie-Akers, associate professor in the Department of Public Health at the University of Kansas Medical Center. “Having him come to KU for this summit provides a really important opportunity for public health researchers and practitioners to consider how we might pursue bold solutions in our own communities.”

The summit will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday, Dec. 6, in the Big 12 Room of the Kansas Union, 1301 Jayhawk Blvd., in Lawrence. It is co-sponsored by KU Medical Center and the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department. A student session open to all undergraduate and graduate students at KU and KU Med will be from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

This event is open to the public as well as faculty, students and staff. The summit will include speakers from local communities, the state of Kansas and the region to discuss opportunities to advance bold solutions in Kansas through the use of data and working with policymakers.

Collie-Akers said these discussions come during a time when landscape for public health is changing significantly with increasing calls for local health departments to strengthen public health practice by strategically addressing current and emerging health issues and their root causes using data-driven, innovative approaches. Kansas communities are also undergoing change right now as well.

“These concurrent changes offer and require that we look at bold, innovative solutions for effectively assuring conditions in which all Kansans have the best opportunities for health,” said Collie-Akers, who also leads the Academic Health Department initiative with the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department.

“Creating the opportunity for every Kansan to enjoy good health is an important responsibility but also a shared one,” said Director Dan Partridge, of the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department. “We hope this summit will generate bold solutions, including on sharing data, on how public health professionals can work together with community partners and residents to improve health for all.”



Anyone interested in attending the summit can [register here](#) before Nov. 26. A full agenda is also available [here](#).

### **About the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department**

The Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department has served the Lawrence and Douglas County community for more than 120 years. Its mission is to advance policies, practices and programs that promote health for all, prevent disease and protect the environment.

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Together, day by day, building a healthy community

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