

Dr. Michael D. Celestin, Jr.
Assistant Professor
Behavioral & Community Health

Education

University of Louisiana Lafayette, Lafayette, LA., BA 1997 Communication
University of New Orleans, New Orleans, LA., MA 2003 Health Promotion
Southern University, Baton Rouge, LA, PHD 2019 Public Policy
Tulane University, New Orleans, LA MS 2024 Clinical Research



Dr. Michael D. Celestin is an assistant professor of behavioral and community health sciences with LSU Health New Orleans School of Public Health. He is also the director of the Louisiana Tobacco Control Initiative. Dr. Celestin earned a bachelor's degree in communication from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, a master's degree in health promotion from the University of New Orleans, and his doctorate in public policy from Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

He serves as the clinical lead of tobacco control and health systems change for the LSU Health Care Services Division. He also serves as committee chair of tobacco cessation for the Louisiana Department of Health's Tobacco Control Coalition. He maintains certification as a health education specialist and a tobacco treatment specialist.

Dr. Celestin has more than 25 years of expertise in tobacco prevention and cessation program development, implementation, and evaluation in community and health system settings. His research objective is to close the gap in provider implementation and patient use of evidence-based tobacco use treatment in high prevalence high-risk populations to prevent tobacco-related morbidity and mortality.

His past research projects have focused on: 1) determining the impact of integrating evidence-based policies and interventions in healthcare settings to support systems change and patient and provider behavior change; 2) assessing patient reported outcomes related to tobacco use to support clinical decision-making by healthcare providers and smoking cessation by patients; and 3) identifying health disparities in sub-populations of high-prevalence high-risk smokers to increase smoking cessation.

He has published several peer-reviewed manuscripts and book chapters and has given numerous oral and poster presentations at state and national conferences regarding tobacco control in Louisiana.