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During his time with the program, Dr. Wiberg held the title of Executive Director of the Minnesota Board of Pharmacy. He also serves as an adjunct faculty member for the Online POP program.

Interview with Cody Wiberg, Pharm.D., M.S.

In this issue of POPTopics, we feature an outstanding graduate who is using their UF online M.S. degree to effect change with a state Board of Pharmacy, working at the intersection of state regulation, pharmaceutical care, and education. Meet Dr. Cody Wiberg.

Job title:

Executive Director, Minnesota Board of Pharmacy.

Graduation date and track:

2009, Pharmaceutical Regulation

Interview with Cody Wiberg, Pharm.D., M.S. (cont.)

Why did you choose this program?

I had been considering going back to either law or graduate school to gain additional knowledge that would be useful for my job. I received a well-timed email for Dr. David Brushwood, UF Online POP program founder and former director, announcing the graduate degree.

Even though I had been the Executive Director of the Minnesota Board of Pharmacy for two years – and had served as the Pharmacy Program Manager for the State of Minnesota Medicaid Agency for nearly seven years – I was basically self-taught. I reasoned that being self-taught, I didn't necessarily even know what other information might be useful. Once I read about the program on the University of Florida website, I decided it was just the sort of program I was looking for.

Can students really balance work, life, and graduate school?

Yes. As Executive Director of a Board of Pharmacy, I have a fairly demanding job. However, I found the time to do the readings, attend classes, write the papers, and take the exams. I was also able to still do things with my family and otherwise have time for leisure activities.

What career opportunities have occurred because of this degree?

After graduating from the UF POP program, I was asked to be a co-instructor for two of the courses: State Regulation of Drugs and Pharmacy, and Medicare and Medicaid. I later became the course director for both of those courses. As a result of this experience, the University of Minnesota asked me to take over as Course Director of the Doctor of Pharmacy law course. I've enjoyed expanding my experience back into the classroom as an instructor.

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Wiberg on a port wine tour along the Douro River in Portugal.



Wiberg on a boat tour of the River Rhein in Germany.



Wiberg making Norwegian potato dumplings called klubb at a family reunion.

Interview with Cody Wiberg, Pharm.D., M.S. (cont.)

What stands out about the professors?

Most of the professors had a lot of practical experience outside of academia – or had many years of experience teaching for colleges of pharmacy or graduate schools. They had worked in policy positions at the Food and Drug Administration or with other agencies in Washington DC, represented clients as attorneys, and taught pharmacy law or ethics. The professors all seemed genuinely interested in imparting their knowledge to students.

What was your favorite class and why?

Structure, Process, and Outcomes of Regulations. It set the stage for all of the other courses in the program. We learned about how laws are interpreted and how to review and study case law. That has been very valuable for my job.

What stands out about POP's Online Education?

The program was very convenient and flexible. I was looking into local, part-time, but in-person programs in law or graduate schools. Those programs would probably have also offered good quality – but they would not have been as convenient and flexible.

Any other parting words/thoughts?

I use many of the things I learned in this program on a very regular basis in my job as Executive Director of the Minnesota Board of Pharmacy. I also enjoyed my trips to Gainesville to participate in Seminar, and the information I've learned at these events has been very useful.

“I use many of the things I learned in this program on a very regular basis in my job”



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Are you an alumni who would like to be more involved in the online UF POP program to provide guidance, participate in events, or help recruit prospective students?

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