

## **Savannah native completes research training at Harvard**

**By Savannah Morning News**

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Savannah native Christopher Williams, Ph.D., received a certificate of completion with honors from Harvard Medical School's Global Clinical Scholars Research Training Program.

Williams was graduated from Groves High School in 1985 and is the son of Marguerite Ellison Horton and the late James Williams Jr. He now lives in Westchester County, New York.

He is senior vice president at National Health Promotion Associates in White Plains, N.Y. The group develops, tests and disseminates evidence-based approaches to prevent tobacco, alcohol, drug abuse, and violence among children and adolescents, he said.

He also serves as principal investigator on National Institutes of Health-funded trials to reduce high-risk behaviors among adolescents and young adults.

The year-long Harvard program provides researchers and clinicians with advanced training in the conduct of clinical trials with emphasis in biostatistics and epidemiology, he said. The program draws scholars from around the globe and encourages collaboration to address critical public health concerns.

Through a blended learning approach including traditional face-to-face classes, online lecture supported by interactive webinars, and team and individual assignments, scholars are trained in statistical analysis and the design of clinical trials.

“The program was rigorous and intellectually stimulating,” Williams said. “I was most impressed by the drive and passion of Harvard faculty and my fellow scholars. Regardless of previous training or specialty, everyone has the same goal of improving health outcomes, and reducing disease burden through evidence-based research and practice.”