

February, 2024

# News & Updates

### **SBS Socials**

We are continuing to build our following for our new department social media accounts. Please like/follow if you haven't already!



### **Breakthrough \$10k Academic-Community Partnership Grants**

Exciting news from from Dr. Maghboeba Mosavel and her team: For the very first time, the *Division of Community Engagement* in partnership with the *Council on Community Engagement* is offering seed funding to support intentional collaboration between researchers and community partners. In today's landscape, funders are increasingly prioritizing robust academic-community partnerships as the cornerstone of impactful research.

With ten grants available, each totaling \$10,000, this is your chance to focus on partnership development to address community-identified local issues. Whether you're looking to develop new partnerships or fortify existing ones, these grants are designed to support the planning phase crucial for meaningful collaboration.

We're not just seeking proposals; we are championing authentic collaboration. Your research questions will be shaped by community concerns, ensuring relevance and resonance.

Proposals are due by March 29th.

More information here.

## **Awards & Honors**



Dr. Katherine Tossas received a Cancer Health Equity Award during the Stand Up To Cancer Scientific Summit this January.

## **Presentations & Publications**

#### **Presentations:**

Kim, S. J., Clark, V., Hong, S., Lichtman, A. H., & Sheppard, V. B. (March, 2024). Discrepant perspectives on medical cannabis use among cancer survivors and cancer providers. Poster presentation at the 45th Annual Meeting and Scientific Sessions of the Society of Behavioral Medicine (SBM), Philadelphia, PA.

Fugate-Laus, K., Hayes, R., Barsell, J., Do, E. K., Kim, S. J., Wheeler, D., Kumar, A., Diala, O., & Fuemmeler B. F. (March, 2024). Examining the Association between Community Connectedness, Parental Monitoring, and Rural Youth Tobacco Use. Poster presentation at the 45th Annual Meeting and Scientific Sessions of the Society of Behavioral Medicine (SBM), Philadelphia, PA.

Casanave-Phillips K, Lanoye A, LaRose JG. Psychosocial predictors of engagement among emerging adults in the REACH trial. (March, 2024). Accepted for presentation at the annual meeting of the Society of Behavioral Medicine, Philadelphia, PA. \**selected for Citation Award* 

### **Publications:**

García, D.T., Ruiz, S.Y., Siles, K., & Akinkugbe, A.A. (2023). Teledentistry Acceptability Among Latina/o/x Adults in Rural Southwest Virginia. Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved 34(4), 1353-1365. https://www.muse.jhu.edu/article/912722.

## **Research Wins**



After a year of delays and incredible perseverance, Drs. Mosavel and LaRose are thrilled to celebrate that the first wave of intervention launched for their <u>Wellness</u> <u>Engagement (WE) Petersburg</u> trial! Special shout out to their amazing CAB, Wellness Ambassadors, Bri Phillips, Karly Casanave-Phillips, Morgan Meyer and Erin Deighton for their incredible dedication and hard work! #TeamWorkMakesTheDreamWork

## A Visit From Mexico's U.S. Ambassador



### Ambassador Esteban Moctezuma Barragan visits VCU January 25th

Dr. Dina Garcia was invited to meet with the ambassador to discuss opportunities to establish binational public health collaborations. Read more about the visit <u>here</u>.

# Alumni Updates

 Dr. Kofoworola Williams (SBS '20) will be presenting at Harvard's T.H. Chan School of Public Health Seminar Series on February 21st. Her talk is entitled "Toward Equitable Design: What We Know and Need to Address about Mental Health Prevention and Promotion among #blackboysandmen." More info here.

 Dr. Kristal Lyn Brown (SBS '20) was accepted to Harvard's COURAGE program, which aims to make resources available and advance the careers of early career investigators in obesity, nutrition, and diabetes. More info here.





## **Upcoming Events**

#### Friday, February 23rd 12:00-1:00pm

DEI Education Lunch and Learn Series - Diversity in Action: Seeing Ourselves in the Diversity Space McGlothlin Medical Education Center, Room 3-101 More info here

#### Wednesday, February 28th 11:30am-12:30pm

Addressing Health Disparities by Utilizing Advocacy to Achieve Health Equity Presented by Sheldon D. Fields, Ph.D. VCU School of Nursing, Room 1011 Zoom registration here

#### Thursday, February 29th 1:00pm-2:30pm

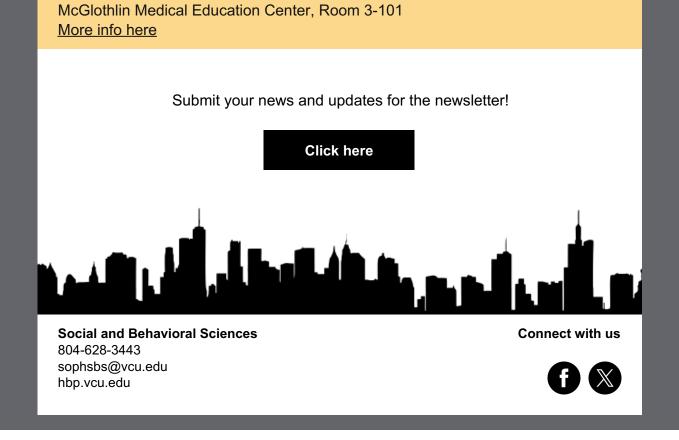
Cultural Humility: Learning to Build Meaningful and Equitable Relationships Presented by VCU's Division of Inclusive Excellence <u>Register here</u>

#### Friday, March 8th 12:00-1:00pm

DEI Education Lunch and Learn Series - Equity and Justice in Actions: Health Equity as an Imperative and Health Justice as a Framework for Advocacy and Access McGlothlin Medical Education Center, Room 3-101 <u>More info here</u>

### Tuesday, March 19th 12:00-1:00pm

DEI Education Lunch and Learn Series - Inclusion in Action: Cultivating and Sustaining an Inclusive Environment



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