



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!



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### 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.

## 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

# WE 2.0 PETERSBURG WELLNESS ENGAGEMENT

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 Wellness Engagement (WE) Petersburg 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 [here](#).


## 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](#).

Towards Equitable Design: What We Know and Need to Address about Mental Health Prevention and Promotion among #blackboysandmen



WEDNESDAY 2/21  
1:00 - 1:50 PM  
F23 012 OR ONLINE  
LUNCH PROVIDED

Suicide-related behavior and completion rates among young Black men have mental health prevention a critical area of public health focus. In this discussion, Dr. Williams will talk about the current state of mental health literature from a digital equity and intervention lens.

Dr. Kofoworola D.A. Williams is a social and behavioral scientist and mental health disparities investigator with an extensive background in public health and health behavior change theory. She now serves as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Community Health and Prevention at Drexel School of Public Health as part of the Drexel FIRST Program.

DR. KOFOWOROLA WILLIAMS  
DREXEL UNIVERSITY



## 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

[Register here](#)

### 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

[More info here](#)

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

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

Submit your news and updates for the newsletter!

[Click here](#)



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