IN SOLIDARITY
THE ROLE OF PUBLIC HEALTH IN SOCIAL JUSTICE

FEBRUARY 26, 2016
The William & Ida Friday Center
CHAPEL HILL, NC

minorityhealth.web.unc.edu
The Minority Health Conference is the largest and longest running student-led health conference, attracting over 600 students, faculty, researchers, practitioners, advocates, and community leaders each year in person, with hundreds more participating via webcast. The overarching goal of the conference is to raise awareness around health disparities and mobilize students, academics, and community members to take action for change. The theme for this year’s conference, “In Solidarity: The Role of Public Health in Social Justice,” will highlight opportunities for public health researchers and practitioners and social justice advocates to learn from each other to identify best practices for prioritizing minority health and fostering inclusive strategies for change.

This conference takes a broad view of social justice. When we use the phrase “social justice,” we mean community-driven work that aims to reduce disparities and promote health equity amongst disenfranchised groups. Our conference recognizes social justice as an ongoing process—not an outcome—that challenges the roots of injustice and oppression and seeks the fair distribution of resources, opportunities, and responsibilities through community empowerment and collaborative action. Public health practice and research is guided by a deep understanding of the connections between individual health outcomes and community conditions, and this has led to a focus on health equity. However, the public health community must look critically at our own work and ask how that work may perpetuate the very problems we are trying to solve. Social justice offers public health a set of principles to guide our work. As public health professionals we can look to social justice principles and practices to learn and deepen our commitment to eliminating those social and institutional factors, present and historical, that deny individuals the ability to attain the highest level of health.

This year’s conference will include a broad spectrum of speakers who will bring diverse perspectives from across the fields of social justice and public health. In addition to keynote speakers and breakout sessions, the 2016 conference will be the first to feature an interactive skill-building workshop for attendees. We invite you to join in our dialogue and register for this year’s conference. This brochure gives an overview of the conference sessions and speakers. For the most up-to-date conference information please visit http://minorityhealth.web.unc.edu/.
REGISTRATION & HOTELS

The registration deadline is FEBRUARY 12, 2016

Registration Fees:
Students & Seniors (60+): $35
All other registrants: $65

WEBCAST

If you can’t make it to Chapel Hill in February, we invite you to join us for this year’s William T. Small Keynote Webcast. This webcast will include the keynote address and a live question and answer session with Dr. Crystallee Crain. There are three options for individual and group webcast participation:

(1) host a partner conference, (2) organize a group viewing, (3) watch as an individual.

Please visit our website for more details.

HOTELS

Hampton Inn Carrboro
370 East Main Street, Unit 100
Carrboro, NC 27510
919-969-6988
www.hamptoninn3.hilton.com

Hampton Inn Chapel Hill/Durham
6121 Farrington Road
Chapel Hill, NC 27517
919-403-8700
www.hamptoninn3.hilton.com

Courtyard Chapel Hill
100 Marriot Way
Chapel Hill, NC 27517
919-883-0700
www.courtyardchapelhill.com

Aloft Chapel Hill
1001 Hamilton Road
Chapel Hill, NC 27517
919-932-7772
www.aloftchapelhill.com

REGISTER NOW:
http://minorityhealth.web.unc.edu
CRISTALLEE CRAIN, PHD

William T. Small, Jr. Keynote Lecture

Dr. Crystallee Crain began her career in public service with a passion for justice, equity, and access for low income communities and communities of color. Dr. Crain has worked as a professor for 10 years teaching in political science and sociology departments in California and Michigan. As a public health advocate Dr. Crain demands for better systems and services for the most marginalized. Crystallee earned a Doctorate of Philosophy in Transformative Studies at the California Institute of Integral Studies in San Francisco, CA. She holds a Master of Arts in Social Sciences, and a Bachelors in Political Science from Northern Michigan University. In 2013 she received advanced training in Health and Human Rights in the School of Public Health at Harvard University. In January 2011 she received the Norman Lear Award from People for the American Way (You People For). Dr. Crain proudly serves as a member of the Alameda County Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Commission and the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE). In 2011 she was featured in the TIME Magazine PROTESTOR issue highlighting activists around the world who speak truth to power.

MIRIAM ZOILA PÉREZ

Victor J. Schoenbach Keynote Lecture

Miriam Zoila Pérez is a Cuban-American writer covering issues of race, health and gender. She is the founder of RadicalDoula.com, and was an Editor at Feministing.com for four years, during which time the site was awarded the Sidney J Hillman Prize for Blog Journalism. Her writing has appeared in The Nation, Talking Points Memo, The American Prospect, MORE Magazine, RH Reality Check and a number of anthologies, including Yes Means Yes, Click and Persistence. Pérez is the author of The Radical Doula Guide: A Political Primer for Full-Spectrum Pregnancy and Childbirth Support. Learn more about her work on her website, or follow her on twitter @miriamzperez.
SOLIDARITY IN PERSPECTIVE: REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH THROUGH THE EYES OF WOMEN OF COLOR  TANYA BASS & PARK CANNON

This presentation will address reproductive justice disparities that are specific to the Southern US states. By introducing “The Crooked Room Perspective”, the presenters will address issues that women of color face as they are forced to legitimize themselves, label inequalities, and lead movements that limit reproductive autonomy in professional and political settings. The presenters will share the history of the creation and work of the Women of Color Sexual Health Network (WoCShN). Through the case study of Kenlissia Jones and House Resolution 746, the speakers will detail the impact of racism and discrimination on people of color seeking pre-conception health education, family planning, social assistance, and reproductive health care. As societal stigmas compound, contraception use patterns decrease in LGBTQ individuals, and a larger narrative of limited choice is apparent.

LEFT OUT: THE CHALLENGES IMMIGRANTS FACE IN ACCESSING HEALTH CARE BENEFITS  KATE WOOMER-DETERS

Health benefits and income and nutritional support programs create a strong safety net for low-income people, and can improve health outcomes for recipients. However, the laws relating to immigrant eligibility for federal benefit programs are complicated and difficult to navigate for many health providers, social workers, and advocates. This presentation will discuss immigrant eligibility for health benefits such as Medicaid, Affordable Care Act subsidies, Women, Infant, and Children Nutrition program, mental health programs, food stamps, and more. The attorney leading the presentation will discuss both the laws and regulations for eligibility for the program, and the practical barriers that prevent many immigrants and children of immigrants from participating in these critical programs. Participants will gain basic understanding of immigrant eligibility for these programs, and learn about resources to turn to when difficult questions arise for immigrant patients and clients.

See pages 7-13 for speaker bios.
BAN THE BOX:
COMBATTING CONSEQUENCES OF MASS CRIMINALIZATION IN COMMUNITIES OF COLOR
KATHLEEN LOCKWOOD

One in 5 adults in North Carolina has a criminal record. National research has long documented the ways that communities of color are disproportionately targeted and impacted by the criminal justice system. The effects of even a minor criminal record can be a lifelong sentence to poverty, presenting obstacles to employment, housing, education, public assistance, financial empowerment, and more. The Ban the Box Movement, which was designed to combat these obstacles to employment, removes questions about criminal history from initial employment applications, giving people with criminal records an equal opportunity to secure employment. This presentation will focus on these national problems and potential solutions through a case study of Durham, North Carolina. In doing so, we will look at racial disparities in Durham policing, collateral consequences in North Carolina, and the implementation of Ban the Box in Durham city and county. The ultimate goal of this presentation is to recognize the widespread problem of mass criminalization of people of color and identify a replicable tool to combat collateral consequences.

WELLNESS IN THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY:
ADDRESSING ISSUES OF HEALTH DISPARITIES AND MICRO-AGGRESSIONS
MICHELE LEWIS & TERRI PHOENIX

This session will recognize and discuss intersectionality and health disparities in LGBTQ communities. Dr. Lewis’ presentation will focus on the significance of elevating Ubuntu as a means of advancing the collective well-being of people of the African Diaspora, with special attention to be paid to the frequent exclusion, invisibility, and micro-aggressions against Black queer, trans, or same-gender loving people. One of the various ways of defining Ubuntu is “the principle of caring for each other’s well-being and as a spirit of mutual support. It also acknowledges both the right and the responsibilities of every citizen in promoting individual and societal well-being” (Chaplin, 2006). The potential benefits of fostering awareness of Ubuntu among people of the African Diaspora and among culturally-sensitive health care providers will be discussed. The session will highlight Ubuntu’s potential capacity to advance the positive health agenda of Black queer, trans, same-gender loving, and gender nonconforming persons. Dr. Terri Phoenix’s presentation will address health disparities faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) communities, offering suggested practices and resources to provide inclusive care to people who identify as LGBTQ, Two Spirit, or Same Gender Loving. In addition, T will address issues related to research with LGBTQ communities.
POWER, PRIVILEGE, & PARTNERSHIP: 
THE ROLE OF SOCIAL JUSTICE IN HIGHER ED 
GENI ENG, AL RICHMOND, DAVID CALDWELL, 
& GENE R. NICHOL

This panel will engage participants in a dialogue about community-academic partnerships, academic privilege, and community-based participatory research. Panelists will discuss economic equality, environmental justice, anti-racism and health equity as they share experiences working with the NC Poverty Research Fund, the Rogers-Eubanks Neighborhood Association, and the Greensboro Health Disparities Collaborative. Participants will be encouraged to actively engage in the Q&A and analyze both the role of social justice in academia and the role of the university in community.

ACTIVISM, RESILIENCE, & COPING: 
#BLACKLIVESMATTER AND THE PUSH TO END POLICE VIOLENCE 
SAMUEL SINYANGWE, BEVERLY “BJ” COUNCIL, 
D’ATRA JACKSON, & ENRIQUE NOBLETT

#BlackLivesMatter rose as a prominent social and political movement whose purpose is to create a platform to speak out against the ever-present institutionalized racism in law enforcement and the criminal justice system, which has led to the unfair treatment of people of color during police encounters and unwarranted criminalization of communities of color. The strength of the movement's social and political activism is fueled by the resilience and coping efforts of people whose communities have been subjugated to these unjust systems of oppression. Our workshop explores four interrelated tools in ending systemic and institutionalized racism in the criminal justice system: coping and resilience of individuals and communities, awareness of the rights and immediate safety needs for people of color who interact with law enforcement, policy change, and political organizing. The four panelists bring a wealth of professional knowledge and experience in coping, resiliency, political advocacy, and community organizing, and will help attendees understand how resilience and coping help individuals and communities channel their inner strength, with the goal of propelling advocacy and political change to eliminate existing systems of oppression.

FORGING COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS TO ADDRESS CHILDHOOD LEAD EXPOSURE & OTHER HOME HAZARDS 
NEASHA GRAVES, MEGAN HUGHES, LORISA SEIBEL, 
& LENORA SMITH

The North Carolina Lead and Healthy Homes Outreach Task Force is a collaboration of local, state and federal health and housing agencies and community-based organizations working to implement lead and healthy homes programming for vulnerable populations in the state. In partnership with the NC Department of Health and Human Services, staff in the UNC Institute for the Environment convenes this group to share ideas and address challenges for enhancing outreach around childhood lead exposure, mold, pests and pesticides and other environmental health hazards in homes. This interactive session will include representatives from two longtime community-based Durham partners, Reinvestment Partners and the Partnership Effort for the Advancement of Children’s Health (PEACH). The presenters will demonstrate how their partnership and outreach strategies have influenced housing conditions for hundreds of families living in low income Durham neighborhoods, as well as policies aimed at reducing children’s exposure to lead and other hazards. Furthermore, session participants will take part in small-group discussion to identify and consider critical environmental health concerns in their own communities and to brainstorm initial steps toward building partnerships that can influence positive environmental health outcomes for underserved populations.
TANYA BASS, MS, CHES  
Co-President, North Carolina Society for Public Health Education

Tanya Bass, MS, CHES, has 19 years of experience and is viewed as a subject matter expert in the field of health education, minority health, reproductive health, and sexual health. She is an alumnus of the North Carolina Central University (NCCU) Department of Public Health Education. She is currently the lead instructor for Human Sexuality and has been a part time instructor at NCCU for 12 years. She also serves as a facilitator of evidenced based and evidenced informed curricula. Tanya is committed to reducing health disparities and intends to earn a doctorate to begin researching and addressing specific issues impacting sexual health and sexual behavior. She is a Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) and enjoys planning and attending professional development activities. She is a member of the Women of Color Sexual Health Network (WoCSHN) and the 2016 Co-President of the NC Society for Public Health Education (NCSOPHE).

KATE WOOMER-DETERS, JD  
Staff Attorney, Immigrant Rights Project, NC Justice Center

Kate Woomer-Deters joined the Justice Center in 2007. At the Justice Center, she litigates primarily employment, consumer, and housing cases on behalf of low-income immigrants. Some of her cases have included class action lawsuits for unpaid workers or for victims of immigration services fraud. She also conducts trainings across the state on immigrant eligibility for public benefits, and advocates for language access rights for limited-English proficient North Carolinians. Previously, she was an attorney with Legal Aid of North Carolina - Farmworker Unit, where she litigated employment and human trafficking cases for farmworkers, and practiced immigration law. Kate is a 2005 graduate of the University of Minnesota Law School where she was a founding member of the school’s Workers’ Rights Clinic.

PARK CANNON  
Black Women’s Wellness Program Coordinator, Feminist Women’s Health Center  
Board Member, SisterSong

Park Cannon is a 24 year old, politically active, pro-choice woman of color who matriculated from UNC Chapel Hill. Her studies include degrees in Linguistics and Women’s and Gender Studies along with fluency in three languages. Past work includes policy creation, grant writing, grassroots organizing, lobbying, sexual education, and domestic violence prevention. Current work includes patient advocacy, program coordination, and health education in one of the last late term abortion clinics in the South.
JEFFREY SHEARS, PHD
Professor, Joint Master of Social Work Program, NC A&T/UNC Greensboro
Jeffrey Shears, Ph.D., is a joint appointed Professor in the Social Work Departments at North Carolina A&T State University & UNC Greensboro, where he is also the Director of the Joint Masters Social Work Program (JMSW). Dr. Shears earned his BSW and Masters in Education Administration from North Carolina A&T State University and his Ph.D. in Social Work from the University of Denver. His research interest is men (fathering, multicultural issues, HIV and AIDS) and quantitative research with an emphasis on data sharing among social service agencies. In addition, Dr. Shears has an extensive list of academic publications on fathering featured in national and internationally refereed journals. He is co-author of the acclaimed What all Dads Should Know.

WILL McINERNEY
Program Assistant, UNC Men’s Project
Will McInerney is an award-winning spoken word poet, storyteller, speaker, and educator specializing in the intersection of conflict resolution and creative expression. Over the past decade, Will's work has focused in three primary areas including Poetic Diplomacy: oral history collection and storytelling in Middle East and North African-based conflict zones, Youth Arts Empowerment: harnessing the power of our stories to create positive impact through arts education and non-profit development, and Engaging Men: gender equity and violence prevention work on college campuses. Since 2013, Will has worked at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where he co-founded the UNC Men's Project. Through a unique fusion of education, fellowship, and creative practice, Will teaches college students about masculinities, social norms, violence, intersectionality, and leadership development. Will is a US State Department Program Fellow, a Regional Poetry Slam Champion, and a National Poetry Slam Finalist. Will's work has been featured on NPR, American Public Media, Al Jazeera English, TEDx, McKinsey & Company Consulting, and at numerous conferences, performance venues, and universities across the US and internationally. In recognition of his work, Will was recently selected as one of the top six emerging storytellers in the US by the International Storytelling Center.

WIZDOM POWELL, MS, MPH, PHD
Associate Professor, Health Behavior, UNC Chapel Hill
Wizdom Powell is Associate Professor of Health Behavior at UNC-Chapel Hill's Gillings School of Global Public Health. Dr. Powell is also faculty member at UNC’s Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center and Director of the UNC’s Men’s Health Research Lab. In 2011-2012, she was appointed by President Obama to serve as a White House Fellow to the Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel & Readiness and Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta. In this role she served as Special Advisor on Military Mental Health (e.g., PTSD, Suicide, and Military Sexual Trauma). Her community-based research focuses on of the role of modern racism and gender norms on African American male health and healthcare inequities. In addition to being a Kaiser Permanente Burch Fellow, she is an American Psychological Association (APA) Minority, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellow who received a Ph.D. and M.S. in Clinical Psychology and M.P.H. from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. In recognition of outstanding dissertation research, Wizdom received APA’s Division 51 (D51) Loren Frankel Award. She serves as chair of the APA’s workgroup on Health Disparities in Boys and Men and co-chair of the Health Committee for President Obama’s My Brother’s Keeper Initiative in Durham County. In recognition of her public service to young males of color, she received the American Psychological Association’s (D51) Distinguished Professional Service Award. She recently received the prestigious Phillip and Ruth Hettleman Prizes for Outstanding Artistic and Scholarly Achievement by Young Faculty.
KATHLEEN LOCKWOOD, JD
Employment Opportunities Legal Corps Staff
Attorney, Southern Coalition for Social Justice

Kathleen Lockwood is an Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps Legal Fellow with the Clean Slate Project at the Southern Coalition for Social Justice, which works with people who have criminal records to help relieve some of the collateral consequences of their criminal justice involvement. She has served on the Criminal Justice Team of SCSJ since May of 2014, assisting with the Clean Slate Project and advocacy for Ban the Box, an initiative to take questions about criminal justice involvement off of initial employment applications. Kathleen is a 2015 graduate of UNC School of Law and received her Bachelors of Arts in Women’s Studies and English from UNC in 2011. Prior to attending law school, Kathleen worked at a domestic violence shelter and served as a Guardian Ad Litem in Davidson County, North Carolina. She currently resides in Durham, North Carolina.

MICHELE LEWIS, PHD
Associate Professor, Psychological Sciences, Winston-Salem University

Michele K. Lewis is an Associate Professor of Psychology and Chair of the Department of Psychological Sciences at Winston-Salem State University in North Carolina. She is the author of two books, Multicultural Health Psychology: Special Topics Acknowledging Diversity and LGBT Psychology: Research Perspectives and People of African Descent. She has been a member of the WSSU faculty since the Fall of 2007. During her graduate studies, she was trained as a biopsychologist. Currently she writes, researches, and teaches in psychology with attention to liberation psychologies, and advocates for the application of psychology to serve public interests. She uses intersectional, interdisciplinary, and cultural approaches to understand human thoughts, behaviors, and emotions.

TERRI PHOENIX, MS, PHD
Director, LGBTQ Center, UNC Chapel Hill

Terri Phoenix is the Director of the LGBTQ Center at UNC-Chapel Hill. Terri has served on the Executive Board of the National Consortium of Higher Education LGBT Resource Professionals and as Chair of the Board for Safe Schools North Carolina. Terri has given numerous invited and peer-reviewed presentations on cultural competency and inclusive practices at local, regional, and national conferences. Terri is an alumnus of East Carolina University (BA), UNC-Greensboro (MS), and University of Georgia (PhD).
GENE R. NICHOL, JD
Boyd Tinsley Distinguished Professor of Law, UNC Chapel Hill

Gene Nichol is Boyd Tinsley distinguished professor of law at UNC. His scholarly work is supported by the North Carolina Poverty Research Fund. Previously, he was president of the College of William and Mary (2005-2008); Burton Craig professor and dean of the law school at UNC (1999-2005); law dean at the University of Colorado (1988-1995); and Cutler professor and director of the William & Mary Bill of Rights Institute (1985-1988). Nichol’s awards include the ABA’s Edward Finch Award for delivering the nation’s best Law Day address (2003); UNC’s Pro Bono Professor of the Year (2004); induction into the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, NC’s highest civilian honor (2005); Equal Justice Works’ Pro Bono Law Dean of the year (2005); Oklahoma State University’s Distinguished Alumnus Award (2008); the National Employment Lawyers Association’s “Courage To Do Justice Award” (2008); and the Military Religious Freedom Foundation’s Thomas Jefferson Award, for courage in the defense of religious liberty (2008). In 2013, he was awarded the Faith Active in Public Life Award (NC Council of Churches); the W.W. Finlator Award (NC-ACLU); and the Thomas Jefferson Award (UNC’s highest faculty honor). In 2014, he received the McCall Teaching Award (UNC Law School) and the Joanne Arnold Award for Courage and Commitment (University of Colorado-Boulder). Nichol studied philosophy and played varsity football at Oklahoma State University (1973), and obtained his J.D. from the University of Texas in 1976, graduating Order of the Coif.

GENI ENG, PHD
Professor, Health Behavior, UNC Chapel Hill

Geni Eng has, over the past 25 years, developed a body of community-based participatory research (CBPR) work that is recognized both nationally and internationally. Dr. Eng focuses on the integration of community development and health education interventions in the rural United States and developing countries. Her current research projects apply community-based research principles to the design and evaluation of lay health advisor interventions and look at the influence of sociocultural factors on STDs and early detection of breast cancer. Dr. Eng directs the Community Health Scholars post-doctoral program. She also serves as principal investigator on the National Cancer Institute-funded Cancer Health Disparities training grant housed in the department. She teaches community organization, cross-cultural aspects of health education practices, community diagnosis and health issues relevant to women, ethnic minorities, and developing nations.

DAVID CALDWELL, MSW
Project Director, The Rogers-Eubanks Neighborhood Association

David Caldwell has been appointed as the Community Center Coordinator for Orange County. David is a lifelong resident of Orange County. He has most recently served as the Project Director and Community Organizer for the Rogers Eubanks Neighborhood Association (RENA) and its Executive Board of Directors. He is also a member of the Coalition to End Environmental Racism and serves on the Board of Directors for the North Carolina Environmental Justice Network. David is also a Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) expert and has significant experience in supporting and leading positive community development across the region. David served in the Orange County Sheriff’s Office as a Lieutenant in the Patrol division and retired after 22 years of service. Prior to his service with the Sheriff’s Office, David served as a Sergeant in the United States Army Military Police Corps where he performed duties as a general officer bodyguard, a Drill Sergeant, a combat participant during the Invasion of Grenada, and as an instructor for Police Officers from the Caribbean Islands. David holds Bachelor’s Degrees in Recreation Administration from North Carolina Central University and Criminal Justice from Mount Olive College.
SAMUEL SINYANGWE
Co-Founder, WeTheProtestors
Samuel Sinyangwe is a policy analyst and data scientist who works with communities of color to fight systematic racism through cutting-edge policies and strategies. Sam has supported movement activists across the country to collect and use data as a tool for fighting police violence through Mapping Police Violence and has worked in collaboration with activists to develop Campaign Zero, a comprehensive national platform of policy solutions to end police violence. Sam’s work has been featured on MSNBC, CNN, FiveThirtyEight, CBS, BBC, MTV News and a variety of other national and international publications. Sam grew up in Orlando, FL, and has been involved in organizing and advocacy since he was in high school. He graduated from Stanford University in 2012, where he studied how race and racism impact the U.S. political system.

BEVERLY “BJ” COUNCIL
Founder, You & Five-O, LLC
Beverly "BJ" Council is the founder of You & Five-O, LLC. A retired Deputy Police Chief, Council’s gift for analyzing and diffusing situations simultaneously has informed her that she must do something to address the crisis between law enforcement and the residents they are charged to protect and serve. You & Five-O is the result.
As the first African-American female to ascend the ranks of Deputy Chief with the Durham City Police Department, she is no stranger to challenges and seemingly unsurmountable odds. She has a proven record of achievement in implementing crime reduction and crime diversion programs, a unique ability to work during and post crisis to foster collaboration among stakeholders to create practical and powerful ideas that bring about culture shifts that positively brand organizations, and she is a consensus-builder who can easily translate policy, ideas, and concepts to build support. Council’s work is based on the philosophy of customer service, thereby modeling servant leadership. She hosted regular open houses, and personally knocked on citizens’ doors to develop relationships in her district. Current community services include serving as Chair-Elect of the Board of Directors for the Durham Crisis Response Center whose mission is to eliminate domestic and sexual violence in the Durham Community; Crisis Line Volunteer; photographer for League of Upper Extremity of Wrestling Women of Durham an organization that raises funds groups that support women and young girls in Durham; Neighborhood Watch Block Captain.
D’ATRA JACKSON, MS
Triangle and East HBCU Coordinator, Ignite NC

“Dee Dee” Jackson is originally from Philadelphia and moved to Durham from Florida. She attended Cheyney University of Pennsylvania where she received her Bachelor’s Degree in Recreation and Leisure Mgmt. She went on to obtain her Master’s Degree in Recreation and Sport Management from Florida International University on December 2013. While in Miami, she was active in an organization called Dream Defenders, founding the FIU chapter. Dee Dee was a featured panelist at Make Progress, and Next Step Summit by AFL-CIO. She was an organizer with the first statewide #BlackLivesMatter youth assembly. Dee Dee work within Southern Vision Alliance has included coordinating coalitions, leading student debt campaign, summer staff for the Youth Organizing Freedom School, and organizing at HBCU campuses.

NEASHA GRAVES, MPA
Environmental Resource Program, UNC Institute for the Environment

Neasha Graves is the community outreach and education manager for the UNC Institute for the Environment’s Environmental Resource Program, the public engagement, science education and research translation group of the Institute. In her current position, she coordinates environmental health outreach initiatives aimed at sharing research on pulmonary disease, environmental cancers, and other environmental health issues with community and professional audiences. Her areas of expertise include teaching and administering programs for youth and adults in the public school, state government, nonprofit and university sectors. Prior to her position at UNC Chapel Hill, she was the public health program consultant for the NC Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program in the NC Children’s Environmental Health Branch and has resumed that role in a partnership between UNC and the NC Department of Health and Human Services. Mrs. Graves earned her Master’s degree in Public Administration from North Carolina Central University in Durham, NC.
MEGAN HUGHES, MEM  
Research Associate, Environmental Resource Program,  
UNC Institute for the Environment

As a Research Associate with the Environmental Resource Program, Megan Hoert Hughes conducts outreach on asthma, healthy homes and the health effects of shale gas extraction. She also manages a summer science enrichment program aimed at increasing diversity in the geosciences. She has significant experience as an environmental educator and community advocate and has held positions at the Center for Environmental Programs at Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, OH and the Environmental Finance Center at the University of Maryland in College Park, MD. Mrs. Hughes has a Master of Environmental Management degree from Duke University (2000) with an emphasis on Resource Ecology.

LORISA SEIBEL  
Housing Services Director, Reinvestment Partners

Lorisa Seibal is the Housing Services Director for Reinvestment Partners, a Durham area nonprofit agency that advocates for economic justice, community develop and opportunity for the city’s residents and families. Ms. Seibel helps residents advocate for healthy homes, trains owners and contractors to prevent lead poisoning of children, and manages housing counseling grants. Prior to Reinvestment Partners, she worked with the Durham Affordable Housing Coalition for fifteen years as a Community Organizer, serving as Interim Executive Director in 2008 and 2011. Ms. Seibel was also an elected member of Durham City Council from 1991 to 1995.

LENORA SMITH, MS  
Executive Director, Partnership for the Effort for the Advancement of Children’s Health (PEACH)

Lenora S. Smith is the Executive Director of the Partnership Effort for the Advancement of Children’s Health (PEACH), a twenty-year-old nonprofit agency with a mission to improve community economics and health by creating a sustainable workforce to reduce environmental hazards in the community. Ms. Smith’s focus in building PEACH’s influence has been on community connectivity – creating, directing, and working with residents and other organizations to make resources available to marginalized and underserved residents throughout the community. Specifically, PEACH has sought to influence community health and economic development through its role as a comprehensive lead-based paint training and environmental remediation program. She currently serves on the Duke Chancellor’s Community Health Advisory Board, the Durham Mayor’s Poverty Reduction Initiative, Northeast Central Durham Leadership Council, and Latino Health Roundtable. Ms. Smith is a native of Port Chester, NY and lives in Durham with her husband Lester, and they have three grown children.
At the conference, attendees will have the opportunity to interact with exhibitors from a variety of different businesses, agencies and organizations. We are still accepting registrations for exhibitors.

As an exhibitor, your organization will have the opportunity to:

1. spread knowledge and awareness about what you are doing to promote health equity
2. interact with conference participants and distribute relevant information
3. meet and recruit candidates for positions within your organization, and
4. increase your organization’s visibility with a diverse audience.

For more details, email mhc.exhibitors@gmail.com or visit our website.

The conference will also include posters from public health researchers, practitioners, community organizations, and students from a variety of fields that describe both traditional research and “nontraditional” practice and process focused on the intersection of social justice and public health. The posters offer attendees the opportunity to explore interdisciplinary projects that expand on the theme of the conference.

Stay in touch

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