

# REACHING FOR

*the*

# AMERICAN DREAM

ECONOMIC MOBILITY  
AND MINORITY HEALTH

## FEBRUARY 27, 2015



THE WILLIAM & IDA FRIDAY CENTER  
CHAPEL HILL, NC



# MINORITY HEALTH CONFERENCE

PRESENTED BY THE MINORITY STUDENT CAUCUS



UNC  
GILLINGS SCHOOL OF  
GLOBAL PUBLIC HEALTH

# ABOUT US

The UNC Minority Health Conference is the largest and longest-running student led conference, attracting over 500 students, faculty, researchers, practitioners, and community leaders each year. The conference provides a forum for public health professionals and students to explore the issues facing minority populations with the hopes of improving the health and well-being of those communities. The theme for this year's conference, "**Reaching for the American Dream: Economic Mobility and Minority Health**", will consider the impact of socioeconomic factors on minority health, with a particular focus on health disparities in the aftermath of the recession. The conference will highlight timely research on this topic, and will focus on opportunities to advance minority health in the present period of economic recovery. This year's conference will include a broad spectrum of speakers with diverse perspectives that will challenge us to think critically about our approaches to improving minority health by creating opportunities for economic mobility.



# KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

**WILLIAM A. "SANDY"  
DARITY JR., PHD**



**PROFESSOR OF PUBLIC POLICY,  
AFRICAN AND AFRICAN AMERICAN  
STUDIES, AND ECONOMICS AT DUKE  
UNIVERSITY**

William A. "Sandy" Darity Jr. is the Samuel DuBois Cook Professor of Public Policy, African and African American Studies, and Economics, and director of the Duke Consortium on Social Equity. He is also the founding director of the Research Network on Racial and Ethnic Inequality at Duke University. Dr. Darity earned the Ph.D. in economics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1978. Previously, he served as director of the Institute of African American Research, director of the Moore Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship Program, director of the Undergraduate Honors Program in economics, and director of Graduate Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dr. Darity's research focuses on inequality by race, class and ethnicity, stratification economics, schooling and the racial achievement gap, North-South theories of trade and development, skin shade and labor market outcomes, the economics of reparations, the Atlantic slave trade and the Industrial Revolution, the history of economics, and the social psychological effects of exposure to unemployment.

**ALLISON AIELLO,  
PHD, MPH**



**PROFESSOR OF EPIDEMIOLOGY,  
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
GILLINGS SCHOOL OF GLOBAL PUBLIC  
HEALTH**

Dr. Allison Aiello is an internationally recognized expert on social determinants of health, with a focus on infectious diseases. Her research investigates the impact of individual- and neighborhood-level socioeconomic and psychosocial determinants across the life course within minority populations. Dr. Aiello is Professor of Epidemiology at the University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health. A member of the UNC faculty since 2014, Dr. Aiello was previously on faculty at the University of Michigan School of Public Health and a member of the Center for Social Epidemiology and Population Health. Dr. Aiello received her PhD in Epidemiology with distinction from the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, where she held a National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases training fellowship and was the recipient of the Ana C. Gelman Award for outstanding achievement and promise in the field of epidemiology. Prior to obtaining her PhD, Dr. Aiello was an emerging infectious diseases fellow at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She received her MS in Environmental Health Sciences from the University of North Carolina School of Public Health.

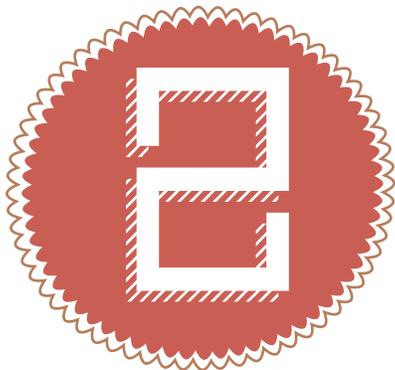
# BREAKOUT SESSIONS



## CENTRAL AMERICAN CHILDREN CROSSING THE U.S.-MEXICAN BORDER

WENDY YOUNG, JD, MAIR; EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, KIDS IN NEED OF DEFENSE (KIND)

Wendy Young will discuss the child migration crisis that unfolded in Summer 2014 at the Southwest border. She will highlight the root causes of the migration from Central America, the U.S. and regional response, and the largely hidden due process crisis that has resulted, as thousands of children – some as young as two years old – face deportation proceedings without legal representation. She will also discuss what the future expectations are for further migration and the solutions that are needed to address this.

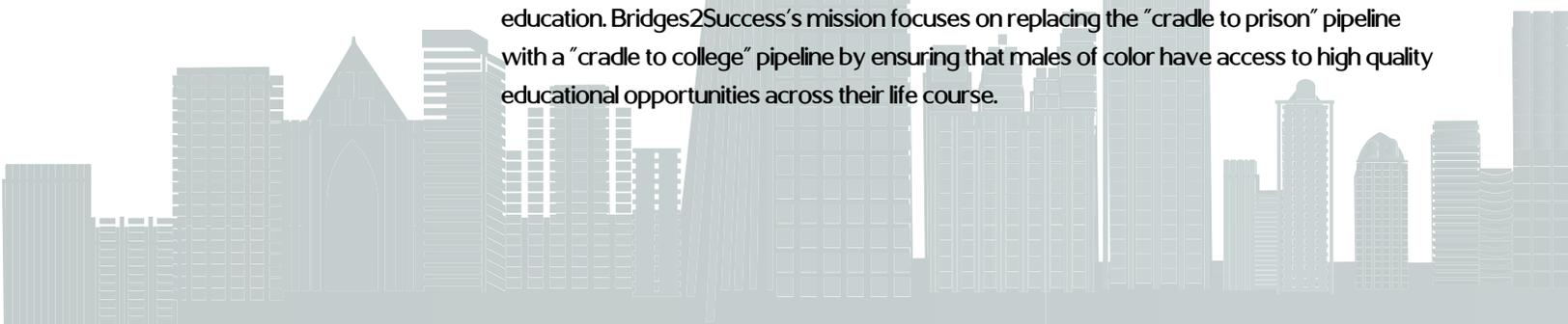


## COLLEGE-BOUND: STRATEGIES TO INCREASE EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AMONG MINORITY YOUTH

NICOLE HURD, PHD; FOUNDER AND CEO, COLLEGE ADVISING CORPS

MARK MCDANIEL, MCRP; FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR BRIDGES2SUCCESS; SENIOR RESEARCH ASSOCIATE, UNC CENTER FOR COMMUNITY CAPITAL

In the United States, earning a college degree is a critical step to securing good economic prospects and a higher quality of life. However, there are several hurdles students must overcome. In this panel discussion, Dr. Nicole Hurd and Mark McDaniel will discuss their respective organizations' unique approaches to increasing educational attainment. The mission of College Advising Corps is to increase the number of low-income, first-generation college students by helping underrepresented high school students enter and complete higher education. Bridges2Success's mission focuses on replacing the "cradle to prison" pipeline with a "cradle to college" pipeline by ensuring that males of color have access to high quality educational opportunities across their life course.

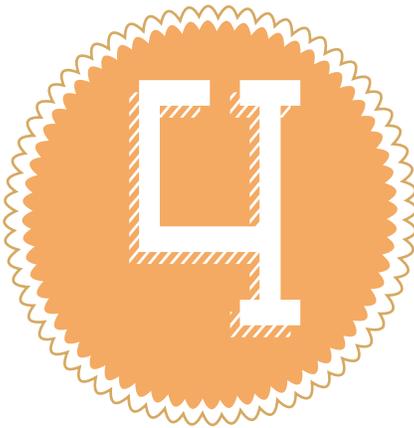




## MY BREAST CANCER RISK: USING TECHNOLOGY TO ENHANCE THE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH LITERACY OF YOUNG BLACK WOMEN

**NEASHA GRAVES, MPA; COMMUNITY PARTNER, UNC BREAST CANCER AND THE ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH PROGRAM**

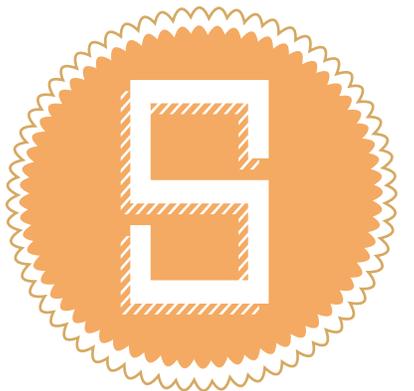
Over the past five years, researchers in the UNC Breast Cancer and the Environment Research Program (BCERP) have sought to understand how pregnancy, obesity and other risk factors affect young African-American women's susceptibility to basal-like breast cancer. The Community Outreach and Engagement Core (COEC) in the UNC Center for Environmental Health and Susceptibility has served as the Community Partner of the UNC BCERP, working with researchers to engage this targeted audience in an effort to raise awareness of health disparities associated with basal-like breast cancer. Neasha Graves will describe the collaboration between BCERP, COEC, and the UNC School of Information and Library Science (SILS) focused on effectively communicating about breast cancer risk factors and improving the environmental health literacy of young, African American women.



## MODELING CRIMINAL HISTORY EFFECTS ON WOMEN'S HEALTH

**DONNA GILLESKIE, PHD; PROFESSOR, UNC DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS**

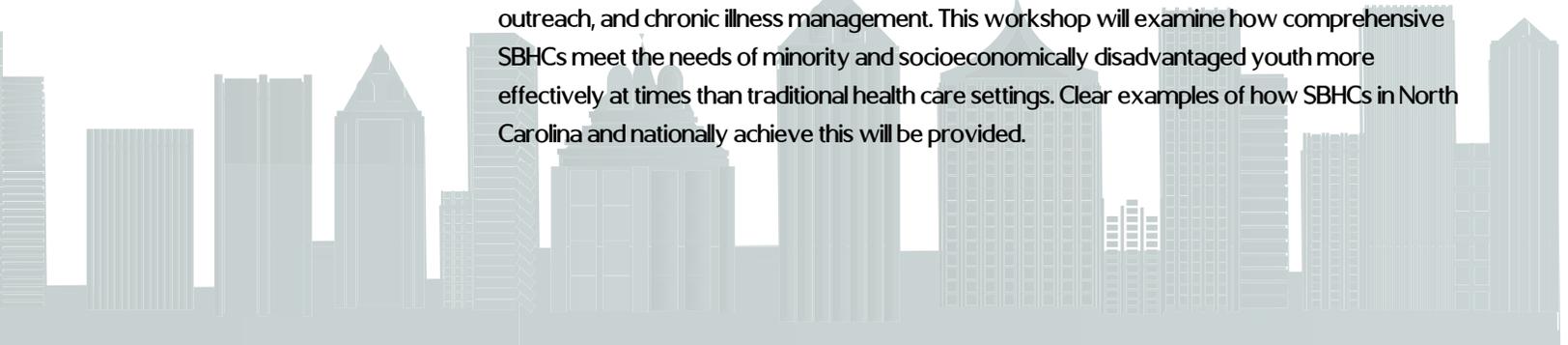
When individuals are charged or convicted of a crime, legal and social collateral consequences typically occur regardless of criminal offense severity or whether a person was imprisoned as part of their criminal sentence. These consequences disproportionately affect disadvantaged women (i.e., ethnic minorities, and/or poor, and/or lower-educated) who typically commit misdemeanor-level crimes, rely on public benefits and low-wage service-sector jobs to support themselves and their children, and have poor mental and physical health. Applying a systems science dynamic modeling approach, we will explore how the inability to access Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and/or find employment due a prior criminal record may contribute to the persistently poor health status of this group.

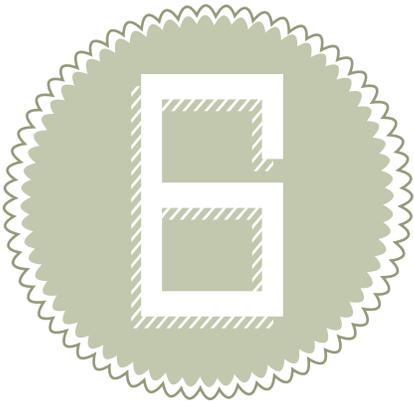


## STRIVING FOR ACADEMIC SUCCESS: THE UNIQUE ROLE OF SCHOOL BASED HEALTH CENTERS

**STEVE NORTH, MD, MPH; FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT, CENTER FOR RURAL HEALTH INNOVATION**

Students perform better when they show up for class healthy and ready to learn. School-based health centers (SBHCs) ensure that students receive the health care services they need in a safe, nurturing place, without the barriers that families too often face. SBHCs exist at the intersection of education and health and are the caulk that prevents children and adolescents from falling through the cracks. They provide primary health care, mental health care and counseling, family outreach, and chronic illness management. This workshop will examine how comprehensive SBHCs meet the needs of minority and socioeconomically disadvantaged youth more effectively at times than traditional health care settings. Clear examples of how SBHCs in North Carolina and nationally achieve this will be provided.





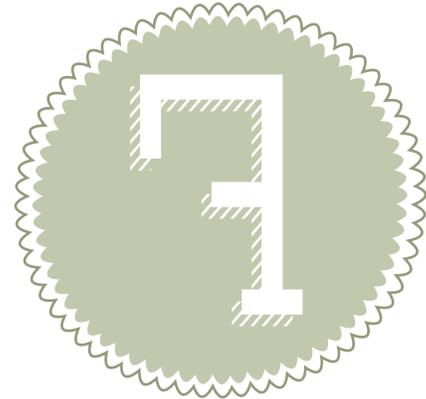
## MONEY ON MY MIND: THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INCOME AND MENTAL HEALTH

CAROL GOLIN, MD; ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, UNC GILLINGS SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

KEMI AMOLA, PHD; CLINICAL RESEARCHER AND MENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONER, UNC SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

CHERYL GISCOMBE, PHD; ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, UNC SCHOOL OF NURSING

Minority women living in poverty in the U.S. are confronted with a myriad of stressors that can lead to depression, stress, and anxiety disorders. Inadequate insurance coverage exacerbates untreated mental health conditions, which can have long term and cyclical implications for income and earning potential, and overall morbidity and mortality. Dr. Carol Golin will present on the high rates of psychological distress among low-income minority women, exploring the effects of having highly constrained financial resources. Dr. Cheryl Giscombe will then discuss successful examples of, and barriers to, transdisciplinary student/faculty-staffed mental health clinics. Finally, Dr. Kemi Amola will outline the characteristics of resilience and related coping mechanisms and review therapeutic interventions designed to promote resilience and improve the mental health functioning of low-income women.



## MIGRANT FARMWORKERS: UNDERSTANDING MIGRATION-RELATED TRAUMA AND HEALTH CARE ACCESS

ZOË L. CUMMINGS, MSW, MPH, CHES; 340B DRUG PRICING SPECIALIST, NC FARMWORKER HEALTH PROGRAM, NC DHHS

JOSH HINSON, MSW, LCSW, LCAS; CLINICAL INSTRUCTOR, UNC SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Farm work is consistently ranked among the most dangerous occupations in the United States. Latino farmworkers experience occupational health risks such as back pain, muscle strain, heat stress, pesticide exposure, dermatitis, and poor quality housing. In addition, farmworkers are much more likely to experience behavioral health risks associated with geographic and social isolation, traumatic migration experiences, discrimination, and depression, amongst others. In this interactive panel, Joshua Hinson and Zoë L. Cummings will explore the effects of migration-related trauma on migrant farmworkers' physical and mental health as well as discuss barriers to accessing care. They will highlight culturally sensitive approaches to Latino mental health and the options for accessing care in North Carolina.



## PRISONS AND THE PROMISED LAND: THE DECLINE OF COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES AND THE RISE OF STATE INSTITUTIONS IN RURAL BLACK TOWNS

KARLA SLOCUM, PHD; ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AND DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE OF AFRICAN AMERICAN RESEARCH, UNC DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

Little has been explored about the implication of prison building in black American communities. Dr. Slocum will focus on historic black communities in rural Oklahoma where three prisons have been built since the 1980s. The towns were founded during the Jim Crow era as a safe haven or "promised land" for blacks. Their historic institutions – many run by blacks – were intended to serve economic and social needs, including mental and physical health. Dr. Slocum will explore what happens when black town institutions shift from a focus on serving the community to serving the state economy and interests. What becomes of a black community's access to social and health resources and services when the town is designated as a prison town?

# REGISTRATION

If you can't make it to Chapel Hill in February, we welcome 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. William Darity. Visit [www.minorityhealth.web.edu](http://www.minorityhealth.web.edu) for more information. Please note that you must register for the conference by February 13, 2015, and your payment must be received or postmarked by this date as well.

**REGISTER NOW**  
**MINORITYHEALTH.WEB.UNC.EDU**

## REGISTRATION FEES

STUDENT OR SENIOR: \$30  
ALL OTHER REGISTRANTS: \$60

# EXHIBITORS

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 registration 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 equality; (2) interact with conference participants and distribute relevant information; (3) meet and recruit candidates for positions within your organization; and (4) increase your visibility in local, state, national, and global arenas. For more details, email [mhc.exhibitors@gmail.com](mailto:mhc.exhibitors@gmail.com).

# AND POSTERS



The conference will also include posters from public health researchers as well as practitioners, community members, community organizations, and students from a variety of fields. The posters offer attendees the opportunity to explore interdisciplinary projects that expand the theme of the conference.

# HOTELS



## ALOFT CHAPEL HILL

1001 Hamilton Road  
Chapel Hill, NC 27517  
919-932-7772

[www.aloftchapelhill.com](http://www.aloftchapelhill.com)

## HAMPTON INN CARRBORO

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919-969-6988

[hamptoninn3.hilton.com](http://hamptoninn3.hilton.com)

## COURTYARD CHAPEL HILL

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## HAMPTON INN DURHAM

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# FEBRUARY 27, 2015

THE WILLIAM & IDA FRIDAY CENTER  
FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION

100 Friday Center Drive  
Chapel Hill, NC 27599



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