

Governors State University



GUIDELines

Advancing Health Equity in the Southlands

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A message from Dean Catherine Balthazar

June 2020



For more than three months, the novel coronavirus pandemic has magnified the racial and health inequities that disproportionately impact our black communities. It has revealed the structures, practices, and policies that have created underlying social and economic conditions, health disparities, poor health outcomes and quality of life. During this time, we have also experienced the brutal and shocking deaths of Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, George Floyd and now Rayshard Brooks, which have traumatized our nation and once again exhibited the everyday danger of being black in America. And while we would like to say that racism has no place in our society, we must admit that systemic racism still exists regardless of the progress that many think has been made.

The GUIDE Project began as a training and education effort to develop a representative community of health educators and scientists who could drive change and improve health equity. We know that many health disparities are rooted in systemic racism. Our former Early Stage Investigators and student trainees have studied these issues and are in the news for their expert knowledge. Many are on the forefront of advocacy efforts, community education, philanthropy, and organizational leadership. I believe that the GUIDE Project has contributed to our capacity to address the systemic racism endemic to our health care, health research, and health policy systems. In this crucial time, I am looking forward to continuing these efforts along with all of you.



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INDIVIDUAL RECOGNITION

IVONNE KANKO, PHD, MPH, MBA, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

SHARES ABOUT HER EXPERIENCE AT GSU AND HOW COVID19 IMPACTED HER AND HER STUDENTS

“GSU is highly respected in Illinois and beyond for its values towards learning and its focus on social change. That has made my job here as faculty a pleasant and fulfilling experience being a social justice advocate. My best moment as a teacher is watching and listening to my students deliver community health presentations on solution-driven projects guided by theories and models they have been working on throughout their semester under my tutelage- paying special attention to bridging the gaps on health disparities. That leaves me with a full glass of satisfaction as I am reassured of their competencies as future public health leaders and in the future of public health.

Besides the fulfillment I get in my students’ achievement, GSU has been a nurturing and peaceful working environment with supportive faculty, leaderships and staff. Although we struggle with resources like all other State Universities, we are blessed to have leaderships that strive to accommodate our needs in areas of teaching, research and service.

I also serve as faculty Adviser for the student APHA ETA Honors Society and Wellness club. And we were recently awarded GSU’s the Intellectual Life grant for a community engaged research project the students and I have been working on and to host an Allied Health Inter-professional career information fair showcasing how different Allied Health professionals work collaboratively to deliver service during a gun violence incidence intervention, and the challenges they face. We recently submitted an abstract for presentation at American Public Health Association-2020 conference, we will submit another abstract to the Association of Schools of Allied Health Profession. Our informational fair was scheduled to take place at GSU on March 20th, 2020, but we were put on a hold due to the current COVID-19 prevention guidelines. We are working on conducting a virtual fair and presentation sometime in the fall of 2020.

The COVID-19 Impact- the COVID-19 global pandemic era has redefined public health, I however worry about misinformation to our students coming from the media and agencies we rely on with the students being the future of public health leadership. This era has also redefined higher education, learning, family values, relationships, spirituality. It has been humbling, reflective and a teachable time. A time to also rethink education delivery. It is a horrific time, yet I look at it with optimism as opportunity for higher education and remote teaching and learning, although that also comes with its pros and cons. During my spring remote teaching sessions, I asked my students about their remote learning experience and got almost 80% positive response tooting flexibility. I think we should grasp this opportunity for our programs.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS—Governors State University Offers Contact Tracing Certification Course



Governors State University is offering a new certificate program in response to the COVID 19 pandemic: COVID-19- Contact Tracing: Changing the face of the Public Health Workforce.

The effects of COVID-19 on the health of racial and ethnic minority groups is still emerging. This unique and innovative investigation course was developed by a multi-disciplinary team of Public Health Experts with over 70 years of experience in providing assistance to the underserved population. It is vital to provide training to a workforce of individuals to deal with this population because it takes a special skill. Search any job board and you will find employers seeking “Contact Tracers.” This hot, new, high-demand role is popping up everywhere. Whether a municipality, medical center, or large public and private organizations, socially responsible companies need a Contact Tracer on staff. Communities must scale up and train a large contact tracer workforce. Contact Tracers or Contact Tracing Investigators contact patients who are suspected to or have tested positive for COVID 19 to obtain the places and names of others that the patient had contact with. With the City of Chicago recruiting over 600 Contact Tracers and a starting wage of \$20 an hour; \$24 an/hour for supervisors, this position is an opportunity to reach underserved communities, impact health disparities as well as provide em-

Governors State University is providing online self- paced certification courses for those seeking to become Contact Tracers, public health professionals or students looking to learn more about the novel COVID19 virus and “the principles behind isolation and quarantine of contacts as a public health measure.” After completing this course, students should be able to conduct contract tracing according to the established protocol. Course registration is now available online with courses available throughout the month of June. The first class begins June 1 with a registration fee of \$265. CEDA is offering grants for those students who meet income requirements. Upon verification of your completion of the course you will receive a certificate of completion from Governor’s State University. Additionally, the University of Illinois Chicago Great Lakes Center is offering 20 hours continuing education credits for the COVID – 19 CONTACT TRACING online course in conjunction with Project Brotherhood and Governors State University.

Below is the link to registration:

<https://www.enrole.com/govst/jsp/course.jsp?courseId=CTIC&categoryId=10009>

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONT'D



We are pleased to announce that the abstract entitled: **Organizational Alliances: Increasing the Capacity of a Minority Serving Institution (MSI) to Conduct Cancer Disparities Research Through a Community-Engaged Approach** has been submitted to the **APHA 2020 Annual Meeting** by members of the GUIDE. This abstract has been accepted for presentation.



COVID-19 TESTING SITE AT INGALLS HOSPITAL

Testing is available to anyone who has symptoms of influenza-like illness, which include fever, cough, stuffy nose, sinus pain, difficulty breathing and body aches. Testing is not available without an appointment. You must be screened by our triage team before you can be tested. To be screened at Ingalls Memorial (Harvey) Call 708-915-2683 (available to the public and established patients) Testing is available to symptomatic adults only.

Telephone Triage Hours: Monday – Friday, 7:30 AM – 3:30 PM

Testing Clinic Hours: Monday—Friday, 8:00 AM to 3:15 PM

Location:

Uchicago Medicine Ingalls Memorial Hospital

1 Ingalls Drive

Harvey, Illinois 60426

PSA- PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT
SOCIAL DISTANCING & FACE COVERING



You can protect others from getting sick with the COVID-19 virus. Stay home unless you need food, medicine, or medical care. Avoid large crowds and small gatherings.

If you must go out, stay at least 6 feet away from other people. • Wear a mask or cloth face covering so you don't spread germs when you talk, sneeze, or cough. Masks or cloth face coverings should not be used on children under 2 years old.

JUNE IS MEN'S HEALTH WEEK (JUNE 10–16)

National Men's Health Week is observed each year leading up to Father's Day. This week is a reminder for men to take steps to be healthier, but they don't have to do it alone! Whether it's your husband, partner, dad, brother, son, or friend you can help support the health and safety of the men in your life. Set an Example with Healthy Habits

You can support the men in your life by having healthy habits yourself and by making healthy choices.

EVENTS



AACR Annual Meeting 2020, Virtual Meeting II Online Session

June 22 - June 24, 2020

The American Association of Cancer Research (AACR) is hosting the second phase of its virtual annual meeting from June 22-24. On April 6, due to the rapid escalation of the COVID-19 pandemic, the AACR Board of Directors decided to forgo an in-person annual meeting in August, and instead opted to present segments of the meeting program in two AACR Virtual Annual meetings. Registration is free. The **Blue Door Neighborhood Center** staff hopes you; your family and friends are staying safe during this time. While the center is closed at this, we are still available to provide health and wellness information virtually. See below for upcoming webinars for the month of June and feel free to share within you all's networks.

June 18th 12pm-12:30pm: Mental Health & COVID 19 Webinar
June 22nd 4pm-5pm: Ask a Doc: Men's Health Tips Webinar

Evaluation Training Series co-sponsored by ARCC & NU's Buehler Center led by SC member Sara Welch:

June 26: Introduction to Evaluation -

<https://planitpurple.northwestern.edu/event/565930>

CANCER: THRIVING AND SURVIVING WEBINAR SERIES

June 24, 2020 @ 10:00 am - 12:30 pm

This free webinar-workshop series during the COVID-19 pandemic will offer support to people managing cancer treatment or who are in remission. It will be held Wednesdays, from May 27 through July 1.

The series is sponsored by the University of Illinois Cancer Center, Rush University Medical Center and Wellness House. For more information, or to register, please call 1 (800)-757-0202, or email padraic_stanley@rush.edu.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES



Governors State University Research Grants

HHS-2020-ACF-OHS-HC-1829

National Center on Health, Behavioral Health, and Safety

Department of Health and Human Services

Administration for Children and Families – OHS

Current Closing Date for Applications: June 22, 2020 Electronically submitted applications must be submitted no later than 11:59 p.m., ET, on the listed application due date.

AY20-21 Pilot Grant Program

Call for Applications

Development of new technologies to address a clinical research problem.

- improvements in biomedical informatics architecture and/or delivery of services,
- new methods for structuring or analyzing data sets; and stimulating child clinical research.

Studies on methods to improve the clinical translational research process

- Projects grounded in bidirectional community-based participation
- Child health research

Workforce preparedness and interventions to develop training materials

Application Timeline:

- Letters of Intent Due: 12 Noon, JULY 1, 2020
- Full Applications (invitation only) Due: September 4, 2020

ANTICIPATED START NOVEMBER 16, 2020

FOR ADDITIONAL INFO: CONTACT: CCJACKS2@UIC.EDU



Newsletter Contact Information

Send your announcements for next month's issue to:

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