



Culturally Sensitive Care

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

~ Addressing the healthcare needs of the underserved ~

PROGRAM

July 13-14, 2023

EMBASSY SUITES BY HILTON
CHARLESTON HARBOR
100 Ferry Wharf Road
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464

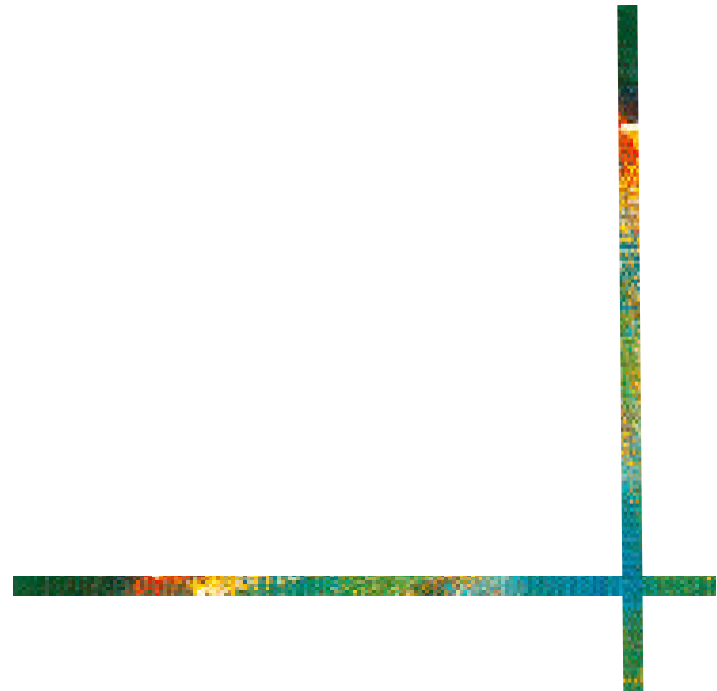


Conference Website:

<https://pico.library.musc.edu/culturallysensitivedarenationalconferencesummer/index.php>

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“Building and sustaining communities to eliminate health disparities nationwide.”



CHAIR'S WELCOME

Dr. Latecia Abraham-Hilaire

Chair, Culturally Sensitive Care National Conference
Associate Professor, Academic Affairs Faculty
Director, Public Information & Community Outreach
Principal Investigator, DOE's CLI and Allen University's EJI
Medical University of South Carolina
abrahamL@musc.edu



Starting July 2023, the Culturally Sensitive Care National Conference is being conducted nationwide. In addition, a The Smith-Rivers-Downing-Ford-Abraham-Hilaire Emerging Research Scholars Panel is being added to this national conference. I am the current Chair of this National Conference. **Dr. Cristina Reyes Smith** was the founding Chair.

The Medical University of South Carolina embarked on a university-wide Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Plan in 2015. One of the major initiatives of this Plan was around Education and Training. While extensive efforts have been made in this area, feedback from the Fall 2017 MUSC College of Health Professions Diversity and Inclusion Survey and Focus Groups indicated that a need remains for more in-depth and comprehensive content that would be accessible to faculty, staff, and students available to both the University and MUSC Health. Additional feedback included that employees and students saw a need for more in-person offerings, discussion-based/interactive components, certification options, and content that would be easily integrated into traditional and online course settings. The MUSC Culturally Sensitive Care program was developed to address those needs in the Fall of 2018.

This year, topics are primarily related to addressing the healthcare needs of underserved communities with updates from local, state, and nationally renowned guest speakers in regards to policies and advocacy. Sessions include discussion pertaining to National CLAS Standards, Emerging Research Scholars, nutrition

and physical activity, Environmental Justice, health disparities and social determinants of health, cancer, gun control, infant/maternal mortality, and mental health. Course content is available in-person with expert lectures and panels, and discussion groups.

This national conference, including expert lectures, panels, and discussion groups, is designed to educate participants in culturally sensitive care approaches using the framework of the [Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services \(CLAS\) Standards](#), published by the United States Department of Health and Human Services (USDHHS) Office of Minority Health. The National CLAS Standards are intended to advance health equity, improve quality, and help eliminate health care disparities by establishing a blueprint for health and health care organizations.

I would be remiss if I did not thank our Keynote and Collegial Speakers, Emerging Research Scholars, Sponsors, Exhibitors, Embassy Suites, Advisory Board, Planning Committee, volunteers, and Staff. Thank you, all, for the time and effort placed into making this a successful conference.



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585



July 5, 2023

Greetings:

Congratulations to the Medical University of South Carolina on the Culturally Sensitive Care Programs, Culturally Sensitive Care National Conference.

It is an honor and privilege to support this national gathering of leaders and experts who have come together to engage communities as full partners in collaborative solutions to the many health challenges and issues affecting the nation today.

This national conference provides a unique opportunity to address topics related to addressing the healthcare needs of underserved communities, and to educate participants in culturally sensitive care approaches; and to hear from local, state, and nationally renowned guest speakers in regard to Health Disparities, Environmental Justice, Social Determinants of Health, Policies, and Advocacy.

I wish you continued success and look forward to working together, we can do great things!

Sincerely,

Melinda Downing
Dr. Melinda Downing

Environmental Justice Program Manager

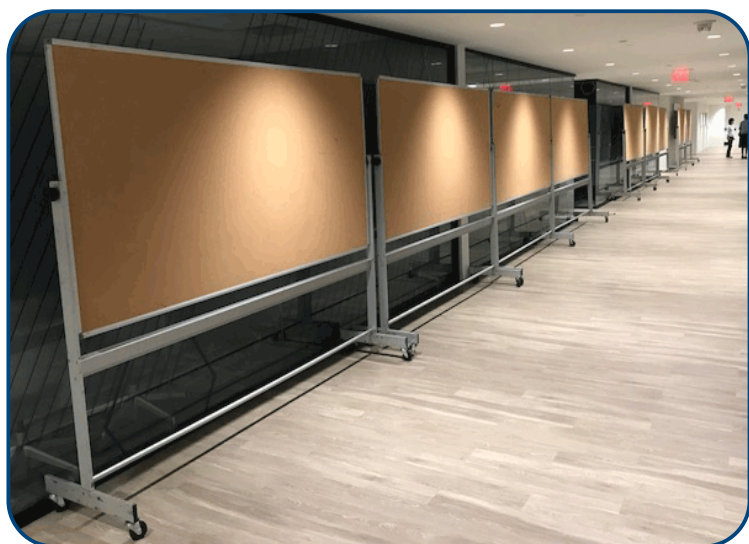
Culturally Sensitive Care National Conference

Addressing the Healthcare Needs of the Underserved

CONFERENCE SPONSORS:







We encourage you to take time to visit our featured exhibits located on the 3rd floor foyer, as well as the Emerging Scholars Research Forum displays located on the 2nd Floor Foyer.

FEATURED EXHIBITS:

- **ALLEN UNIVERSITY**
- **ARTS AND LIFE SKILLS ~ BEHIND THESE PRISON WALLS**
- **INTERNATIONAL AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM**
- **NETWORK OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE ~ REGION 2**
- **MUSC ~ COLLEGE OF MEDICINE**
- **PROJECT H.E.L.P.**



SMITH-RIVERS-DOWNING-FORD-ABRAHAM-HILAIRE EMERGING SCHOLARS RESEARCH FORUM DISPLAYS:

- **MS. JANIECE GLOVER**
Exploring the Role of the Gut Microbiota in Human Health
- **MS. REAGAN WEAVER**
How Has The Issue of Gender Inequities in Healthcare Progressed in 2033?
- **MS. CARLA MARTINEZ MORANT**
- **MS. BRIANNA LEWIS**
- **MS. JADEN LARKIN**
Colon Cancer: Recent Surge and Racial Disparities in America

AGENDA

Day One: Thursday, July 13, 2023

8:00 am Registration and Breakfast, 3rd Floor Foyer & Harbor Grand Ballroom

9:00 am Welcome Remarks 3rd Floor; Harbor Grand Ballroom

Moderator: **Mrs. Vanessa Hill**, former Anchor for WCIV-TV Evening News; First Host and Spokesperson for Southeastern Spine Institute, Mount Pleasant, SC

Chair: **Dr. Latecia Abraham-Hilaire**, Chair, Culturally Sensitive Care National Conference; Associate Professor, Academic Affairs Faculty; Director, Public Information and Community Outreach; Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), Charleston, SC

Founder: **Dr. Cristina Reyes Smith**, Associate Professor and Director of Admissions, College of Health Professions, Occupational Therapy; Founding Chair, Culturally Sensitive Care Workshop, MUSC, Charleston, SC

9:15 am Opening Remarks

Dr. Carrie Herzke, MD, Chief Medical Officer, Medical University of South Carolina Charleston Division, SC

Dr. Thomas Smith, Chair, Academic Affairs Faculty, MUSC, Charleston, SC

Dr. Shannon Jones, Director, MUSC Libraries, Charleston, SC

Dr. Oluwole Ariyo, Dean, Division of Mathematics and Natural Sciences; Associate Professor, Cell and Molecular Biology; Principal Investigator, Environmental Justice Institute, Allen University, Columbia, SC

Rev. DeMett E. Jenkins, Lilly Director of Education and Engagement for Faith-based Communities, International African American Museum, Charleston, SC

Rev. Dr. James A. Keeton, Jr., Senior Pastor, Morris Brown AME Church, Charleston, SC

9:45 am National CLAS Standards Panel and Q&A

Workplace, Language Barriers ~ Need for Interpretation, Engagement

Moderator: **Dr. Myra Haney Singleton**, Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Student Wellness, College of Medicine, MUSC, Charleston, SC.

Panelists: **Dr. Cristina Reyes Smith**, Associate Professor and Director of Admissions, College of Health Professions, Occupational Therapy; Founding Chair, Culturally Sensitive Care Workshop, MUSC, Charleston, SC

Mr. Derrick Watchman, President, Sagebrush Hill Group LLC, Window Rock, AZ

11:00 am Break (Emerging Research Scholars Poster Boards, 2nd Floor Foyer)

11:15 am Introduction of Keynote Speaker

Dr. Latecia Abraham-Hilaire, Chair, Culturally Sensitive Care National Conference; Associate Professor, Academic Affairs Faculty; Director, Public Information and Community Outreach; Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC

Keynote Address

Dr. Everard O. Rutledge, Ph.D., LFACHE, Retired Vice President, Bon Secours Health System, Douglasville, GA

12:00 pm Lunch, 3rd Floor; Harbor Grand Ballroom

1:15 pm Break

1:30 pm Emerging Research Scholars Panel and Q&A

Moderator: **Mrs. Kimberly Kascak**, Assistant Professor; Office of Interprofessional Initiatives, MUSC, Charleston, SC.

Panelists: **Ms. Janiece Glover, MS, Ph.D. Candidate**, Biomedical Sciences, MUSC, Charleston, SC

Ms. Jaden Larkin, Student, Allen University, Columbia, SC

Ms. Reagan Weaver, Student, College of Charleston, SC

AGENDA (Continued)

2:45 pm Nutrition and Physical Activity Panel and Q&A

Moderator: **Ms. Melissa Lindler, MPA, PMP**, Chief of Staff to Dr. Jennifer Clyburn Reed, Federal Co-Chair, Southeast Crescent Regional Commission (SCRC), Columbia, SC

Panelists: **Dr. James L. Coleman, Jr.**, Chief Executive Officer, G.A. Carmichael Family Health Center, Inc., Canton, MS

Rev. Dr. Jeannette Jordan-Gibson, Registered Dietitian, Certified Diabetes Educator; former Spokesperson for the American Dietetic Association; Owner, J&J Health Consultants, Goose Creek, SC

Ms. Olivia Myers, RDN, LD, GroceryRx Founder, Lowcountry Street Grocery, Charleston, SC

4:00 pm Cancer Panel and Q&A

Moderator: **Mrs. Melanie Slan**, Program Manager, Hollings Cancer Center, MUSC, Charleston, SC

Panelists: **Dr. Sayward Harrison**, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC

Dr. Thaddeus J. Bell, Physician, Private Practice, Closing the Gap in Healthcare, Inc. Founder, North Charleston, SC

Dr. Andrea Abbott, MD, Associate Professor, College of Medicine, MUSC, Charleston, SC

5:15 pm Adjournment

5:30 pm Dinner Presentation, 3rd Floor, Harbor Grand Ballroom

Dr. Latecia Abraham-Hilaire, Chair, Culturally Sensitive Care National Conference; Associate Professor, Academic Affairs Faculty; Director, Public Information and Community Outreach; Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC



AGENDA

Day Two: Friday, July 14, 2023

8:00 am Registration and Breakfast, 3rd Floor Foyer & Harbor Grand Ballroom

9:00 am Welcome Remarks 3rd Floor, Harbor Grand Ballroom

Moderator: **Mrs. Vanessa Hill**, former Anchor for WCIV-TV Evening News; First Host and Spokesperson for Southeastern Spine Institute, Mount Pleasant, SC

Chair: **Dr. Latecia Abraham-Hilaire**, Chair, Culturally Sensitive Care National Conference; Associate Professor, Academic Affairs Faculty; Director, Public Information and Community Outreach; Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC

9:15 am Mental Health Panel and Q&A

Moderator: **Ms. Heather Holmes**, Associate Director of Libraries, MUSC, Charleston, SC

Panelists: **Ms. Kelly Troyer**, Development Coordinator, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Charleston, SC

Dr. Temeia Martin, Assistant Professor, College of Medicine, MUSC, Charleston, SC

10:30 am Break (Emerging Research Scholars Poster Boards, 2nd Floor Foyer)

10:45 am Long COVID-19 as it Relates to Environmental Justice Panel and Q&A

Moderator: **Dr. Oluwole Ariyo**, Dean, Division of Mathematics and Natural Sciences; Associate Professor, Cell and Molecular Biology; Principal Investigator, Environmental Justice Institute, Allen University, Columbia, SC

Panelists: **Dr. Linda Bell**, South Carolina State Epidemiologist, SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), Columbia, SC

Dr. Arnold Alier, Bureau Chief, Public Health Preparedness, SC DHEC, Columbia, SC

Dr. Jeannette Kowalik, President & Owner, Jael Solutions Consulting Services, Chicago, IL

12:00 pm Lunch, 3rd Floor, Harbor Grand Ballroom

1:00 pm Break

1:15 pm Gun Control Panel and Q&A

Moderator: **Dr. Shannon Jones**, Director, MUSC Libraries, Charleston, SC

Panelists: **Dr. Rachel Jackson-Gordon**, Research Associate, UNC Charlotte Urban Institute, Concord, NC.

Representative Wendell G. Gilliard, SC State House, District 111, Charleston, SC

Mr. Lorenzo Steele, Jr., Dean, Invest Collegiate Middle/High School, Charlotte, NC

2:30 pm Infant/Maternal Mortality Panel and Q&A

Moderator: **Mrs. Ayaba Logan**, Associate Professor, Academic Affairs Faculty; Research and Education Informationist, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC.

Panelists: **Ms. Rebecca Dineen**, Assistant Commissioner, Bureau of Maternal and Child Health, Baltimore City Health Department, Baltimore, MD

Ms. Tameca Wilson, Director of Maternal Infant Health, March of Dimes, Columbia, SC

3:45 pm Break



AGENDA (Continued)

Day Two: Friday, July 14, 2023

4:00 pm Social Determinants of Health Panel and Q&A

Video: **Our Nation's Health: A Focus on Social Determinants of Health** (SC ETV 2013)

Moderator: **Ms. Sarah Fischer**, Community Engagement and Outreach Strategist, Network of the National Library of Medicine (NNLM), Region 2, MUSC, Charleston, SC.

Panelists: **Dr. Thomas Ellison**, Medical Service Director and Principal Investigator, USA/MRC Bruno-Smithfield Community Health Center; Project H.E.L.P. USA; Birmingham, AL

Ms. Pamela Gillam, Director, Center for Applied Research and Evaluation, Office of Research, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC

5:15 pm Closing Remarks

Dr. Latecia Abraham-Hilaire, Chair, Culturally Sensitive Care National Conference; Associate Professor; Academic Affairs Faculty; Director, Public Information and Community Outreach; Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC

5:30 pm Dinner Presentation, 3rd Floor, Harbor Grand Ballroom

Dr. Oluwole Ariyo, Dean, Division of Mathematics and Natural Sciences; Associate Professor; Cell and Molecular Biology; Principal Investigator; Environmental Justice Institute, Allen University, Columbia, SC

ADVISORY BOARD:

- Dr. Latecia Abraham-Hilaire, Conference Chair and MUSC's Public Information and Community Outreach (PICO) Director
 - Dr. Cristina Reyes Smith, founding Conference Chair
 - Dr. Marvella E. Ford, Smith-Rivers-Downing-Abraham-Hilaire Emerging Research Scholars Chair
 - Dr. Melinda Downing, Sponsor
 - Dr. Oluwole Ariyo, Sponsor
 - Ms. Lorin Jackson, Exhibitor
 - Ms. Melissa Lindler
 - Mr. Derrick Watchman
 - Dr. Mileka Gilbert
 - Mrs. Melanie Slan
 - Mrs. Dionne Shell
 - Mr. Kai Standifer
 - Mr. Bernard Broughton, II
 - Ms. Janiece Glover
 - Dr. Kathleen Beres Rogers
- 

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- Dr. Latecia Abraham-Hilaire, Conference Chair and MUSC's Public Information and Community Outreach (PICO) Director
 - Mr. Richard C. Jablonski, PICO Research Associate
 - Mrs. Rachel Mears, PICO Program Coordinator
 - Mrs. Vertonya "Missy" Anderson
 - Mrs. Evelyn Blake
 - Dr. Shannon Jones
 - Mr. David McCabe
 - Dr. Lloyd Moore, Esq.
 - Mr. Sherman Paggi
 - Mrs. Tasha Renfroe-Shelley
 - Ms. Maria Merritt
- 

VOLUNTEERS & STAFF:

- Mrs. Vertonya "Missy" Anderson
- Ms. Tamika Brown
- Mrs. Jodi Gallman
- Ms. Tara Hay
- Ms. Linda Huggins
- Mrs. Rachel Mears
- Mr. Michael McIntyre
- Mr. Sherman Paggi
- Mrs. Tasha Renfroe-Shelley
- Ms. Debra Trogdon-Livingston
- Mrs. Evelyn Williams



**MUSC Faculty and Staff
who attend the entire
Culturally Sensitive Care National Conference
on July 13-14, 2023 will be granted
Fourteen (14) DEI credits.
That is seven (7) credit hours max per day.
Registration required.**

BIOGRAPHIES



DR. ANDREA ABBOTT, MD

Associate Professor, College of Medicine,
Medical University of South Carolina
Charleston, SC

Dr Andrea Abbott is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Surgery at MUSC. She is a practicing Surgical Oncologist who specializes in the surgical treatment of breast cancer, melanoma and sarcoma. Dr Abbott received her General Surgery training at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis and completed her fellowship training at Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa, Florida. She joined the faculty in the Division of Surgical Oncology at MUSC in 2015 where she has held numerous leadership roles. She currently serves at the Medical Director for the Breast Program at Hollings Cancer Center. She has recently taken on the role of Medical Director for Quality for the Cancer Center and the MUSC-HCC Health Network. Passionate about patient care, Dr Abbott performs research directed at enhancing the patient-physician relationship and achieving care goals that are patient driven. She enjoys living in Charleston and spends her time outdoors, hanging out with her two boys, Jackson (13) and Xander (10).

DR. LATECIA M. ABRAHAM-HILAIRE, DHA

Chair, Culturally Sensitive Care National Conference
Associate Professor, Academic Affairs Faculty
Director, Public Information & Community Outreach
Principal Investigator, DOE's CLI and Allen University's EJI
Medical University of South Carolina
Charleston, SC



Dr. Latecia Abraham-Hilaire, DHA, serves as Associate Professor with Academic Affairs Faculty and as Director of the Public Information and Community Outreach (PICO) Program at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) in Charleston, South Carolina. In addition, she serves as Principal Investigator of U.S. DOE's Community Leaders Institute and Allen University's Environmental Justice Institute. Her predecessor and mentor, the late Dr. David E. Rivers, was the founding Director of PICO.

Dr. Abraham-Hilaire earned a Doctor of Health Administration degree and a Master in Health Administration degree from the Medical University of South Carolina. She also completed Leadership South Carolina in 2001.

She is an author of numerous peer-reviewed articles; she teaches an Interprofessional Public Health Course, and she serves as Chair of the Culturally Sensitive Care National Conference.

Her most recent accolades include the following:

- Charleston Church of Christ's 2023 Black History Recognition Award
- MUSC's 2021 Academic Affairs Faculty "Member of the Year"
- MUSC's 2019 Outstanding Facilitator of Interprofessional Courses Award 2018 and 2015 Bronze Telly Awards for the Sea Change and Zip Code national made-for-television dialogues with over 80 million viewers.

Dr. Abraham-Hilaire, is a member of the American College of Health Care Executives (ACHE), the American Public Health Association (APHA), and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.

In addition, she is a member of Morris Brown AME Church, where Rev. Dr. James A. Keeton is the Senior Pastor, and she serves as Health Commission Chair, Senior Steward Board Member, Class Leader, and Mass Choir Member. Charleston Church of Christ also holds a special place in her heart, where Disciple Jessie Ghoman serves as the Senior Pastor. Dr. Abraham-Hilaire is the daughter of the late Mr. Paul E. Abraham and Mrs. Vermell K. Abraham. She is married to Dr. Jean Hilaire. After marriage, she gained bonus children: son, Sebastien; daughter, Pierrah; daughter-in-law, Elizabeth; and grandson, Adrien. Dr. Abraham-Hilaire has over 20 years of community outreach experience, and she is a committed to building and sustaining healthy communities to eliminate health disparities nationwide.

DR. ARNOLD ALIER MARTÍNEZ, EdD, NRP

*Bureau Chief, Public Health Preparedness,
SC Department of Health & Environmental Control
Columbia, SC*



Dr. Arnold Alier (Alier Martinez in the Latinx community) is the current Director of the Bureau of Public Health Preparedness for the Department of Health and Environment Control (DHEC). He is a past Director of the DHEC Division EMS and has been with DHEC since 2013. He has over 35 years of experience as a paramedic. He holds an Associate of Science Degree in EMS, a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Religion, and a Master and Doctoral Degrees in Education. He has taught in several EMT and paramedic programs in the Upstate of South Carolina and does EMS content writing for HealthStream online CME platform. He was a guest speaker at the International Allied Health Conference in Lima, Peru held at the Cayetano Heredia Medical University.

While at DHEC he developed Narcan training for the law enforcement officers and firefighters. He also started an EMS outreach program called COPE to follow up individuals that have recently overdosed on opioids and were rescued with Narcan. Dr. Alier serves on several opioid crisis committees including the South Carolina Governor's Opioid Emergency Response Taskforce and the National Association of State EMS Official's Opioid Crisis Committee. In March 2022 he testified before a U.S. Congressional hearing on the challenges of the opioid epidemic.

During the Covid-19 pandemic he trained and led testing and vaccination strike teams throughout South Carolina focusing on the underserved Latin-X communities. He has been a spokesman to the Spanish-speaking communities in South Carolina about Covid-19. He is one of the panelists on an upcoming National PBS special this fall on the disparities experienced by the communities of color during the Covid-19 pandemic.

When not working, he enjoys growing coffee, citrus trees, and Carolina Reaper peppers. He has been playing the bass clarinet since high school with various bands, orchestras, and chamber groups. But enjoys the most being called Papa by his 11 grandchildren.

BIOGRAPHIES

(Continued)



DR. OLUWOLE ARIYO

*Dean, Division of Mathematics and Natural Sciences;
Associate Professor, Cell and Molecular Biology;
Principal Investigator, Environmental Justice Institute,
Allen University, Columbia, SC*

Dr. Oluwole Ariyo, an Associate Professor of Biology (Tenured) is the Dean of Mathematics and Natural Sciences and Director/Principal Investigator, Environmental Justice Institute at Allen University. He joined Allen University in 2006 and served as Chair, Division of Mathematics and Natural Sciences between 2009 and 2011. Prior to that, he was the Biology Coordinator for two years (2007 – 2009). He later became the Chair, Allen University Curriculum Committee (2009 – 2017) and the Lead person for Institutional Review Board (2010 - 2022). His current research focuses on investigating and bringing solutions to the deleterious effects of different kinds of pollutants in different communities, especially distressed communities. Another aspect of his research deals with the expression patterns of microRNAs under different stress conditions and developmental stages in rice, corn, and wheat. Dr. Ariyo has mentored over 200 undergraduate students in research across the nation. One of his research presentations with a student on Nitrogen Oxide concentrations within the United States was presented at the National Environmental Justice (NEJ) Conference, which was held in Washington DC, March 2016. Subsequently, several presentations and trainings were presented annually at the same conference on effects of environmental pollutants. His training workshop on; ‘Deleterious Effects of improper disposal of Household Hazardous Waste’ was presented in 2019 at the same NEJ conference. He has been a Principal Investigator on many grants. Therefore, he has a wealth of experience when it comes to grant writing. He is also a member of the Project Management Institute (PMI). Dr. Ariyo loves to sing and play guitar. He believes strongly that integrating research and hands-on activities into teaching is a pragmatic approach to ensure significant students learning outcomes and skills acquisition.

DR. LINDA J. BELL, MD

*South Carolina State Epidemiologist
Director, Bureau of Communicable Disease Prevention
and Control, Public Health
SC Department of Health and Environmental Control
Columbia, SC*



Dr. Linda Bell trained in internal medicine at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School followed by training as an Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Dr. Bell has spent her nearly 30-year public health career with the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) serving in various positions primarily focusing on prevention, control and response to infectious diseases. She is currently the Director of the DHEC Bureau of Communicable Disease Prevention and Control and the South Carolina State Epidemiologist. In that role she is responsible for oversight for the agency’s programs for Acute Disease Epidemiology; STD/HIV & Viral Hepatitis; Immunizations; and Tuberculosis Control. In her work Dr. Bell has endeavored to draw attention to addressing social determinants of health in public health interventions with the ultimate goal of reducing health disparities. Dr. Bell has served on the board of trustees for EdVenture Children’s Museum, Healthy Learners, Heathwood Hall Episcopal School, and Francis Burns United Methodist Church, and is an active member in several community organizations.



DR. THADDEUS J. BELL, MD

*Physician, Closing the Gap in Healthcare, Inc.
North Charleston, SC*

Dr. Thaddeus John Bell was born on May 17, 1944, in Columbia, SC. In his early career he was a schoolteacher in Gaffney, South Carolina where he was the first African American to teach in an all-white high school in South Carolina. While he was a student at South Carolina State College, he was selected to be a park ranger in Yosemite National Park making him one of the first African Americans to be selected by the National Park Service, Department of Interior. He worked there during the summer months from 1964 to 1967. He later moved to Charleston, SC where he taught at Charleston High School and St Andrews High School. He attributes his experience as a teacher being very instrumental in his ability to explain difficult information to people with ease.

Dr. Bell is a graduate of South Carolina State University, a historically black university, and of the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston (1976). He has been designated as a distinguished graduate from both institutions. He is also a graduate of Atlanta University Graduate School with a master's degree in Science Education and of the School of Aerospace Medicine San Antonio, Texas as a certified Flight Surgeon (US Air Force).

In 1980, Dr. Bell cofounded the Elijah Wright Cross-Family Health Center, a free clinic for the underserved people in the rural community of Cross, SC, where he was the only physician in the town for 10 years. With Dr. Bell assistance, the Cross Health Center is now a part of the federally funded Franklin C. Fetter Health Network. Dr. Bell was an attending staff physician at the Ralph Johnson Veteran Hospital in Charleston, where he worked for 6 years as a medical consultant on the Alcohol, Drugs, and Mental Health Unit before entering private practice in Family Medicine. While in private practice, Dr. Bell has also served as a medical consultant to the Charleston and Berkeley County Jails, as well as the Medical Director of Fenwick Hall Drug and Alcohol Abuse Treatment Center. He has also served as a sports medicine consultant to the US Olympic Committee at the Olympic training center in Denver, CO.

In memory of his son, Thaddeus John Bell II, Dr. Bell started the Bell & Schlau Track and Field Seminar for children of the Low Country in collaboration with Charleston Southern University for 20 years which children were taught the fundamentals of track & field. The students gained exposure to world class athletes during their visits to Charleston to participate in the seminar, which was recognized as one the best in the state of South Carolina by the Governor. This led to Dr. Bell's selecting as Chairmen of the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness for three different administrations.

In 1993, Dr. Bell joined the faculty of MUSC, serving as Associate Dean for Minority Affairs in the College of Medicine for 17 years (1993-2010). Dr. James B Edwards (President of MUSC) appointed Dr. Bell as Director of the University's Office of Diversity in 1996, a position he held until 2004. In those positions, he created programs to improve the recruitment, retention, and graduation rates of African American students at MUSC. During his tenure at MUSC, Dr. Bell founded the prestigious Dr. Earl B. Higgins Award and Scholarship, presented annually to the person and student who represents the best virtues of diversity at MUSC. Also, during his tenure, all six colleges at MUSC underwent diversity training, slowly improving enrollment of women and African American students. The greatest improvement was shown in the College of Medicine, where Dr. Bell served as Associate Dean for Diversity under Dr. Layton McCurdy. He served on the Admission & Progress Committees and was a member of the distinguished President Council.

Dr. Bell's tenure at MUSC as a student, faculty member and administrator shined the light on disparities in health at MUSC, within the state of South Carolina, and the overall nation. These disparities became increasingly apparent as Dr. Bell experience in the field of medicine throughout his career.

In 2005, Dr. Bell attended the NMA Annual Convention & Scientific Assembly, focused on health disparities. One of the presenters suggested that black physicians should become more involved in their communities to help decrease the myths and mistrust of the health care system that was widespread among African Americans.

BIOGRAPHIES

(Continued)

Dr. Bell was inspired to address health disparities in South Carolina and focuses on health literacy in the black community. To that end, he founded Closing the Gap in Healthcare Inc (CTGIHC), which is a non-profit organization aimed at decreasing health disparities by providing health education for African Americans and other underserved populations. The organization accomplishes its mission by addressing the health issues of African Americans through health seminars, lectures, barber and beauty shops, virtual conferences, health fairs, and health tips distributed through various communication channels (radio, television, and social media) reaching over 300,000 people each week.

Closing the Gap in Health Care Inc is the parent organization for Thaddeus John Bell Endowed Scholarship for African American Students at MUSC through the Community Foundation of Charleston and has an endowed scholarship which will be given to student in perpetuity. This scholarship is already assisting African Americans students in the health care professions. The Low Country Jazz Festival helps to raise funds for the scholarship, and in 2012, this event was voted one of the top twenty festivals in the South.

Dr. Bell is currently practicing Family Medicine serving patients in his private practice for over 40 years. He has become known as a community and statewide leader in medicine, as well as an elite athlete at the international master's level. He was voted one of SC's Top 100 Athletes of the 20th Century.

Dr. Bell is a member of Olive Branch AME Church, Mt. Pleasant, SC. He is the father of Thaddeus J. Bell, II (deceased), Tiffany J. Bell, Tonisha Bell-Alston (deceased) and is the grandfather of a granddaughter, Julia Alston, grandsons, Kaidyn Thaddeus Snipe and Edmond James Alston. He is married to Cynthia Alston Bell.



DR. JAMES L. COLEMAN, JR.

*Chief Executive Officer,
G.A. Carmichael Family Health Center, Inc.,
Canton, MS*

Dr. James L. Coleman, Jr., a native of Camden, SC, received his Bachelor of Science degree from Winthrop College, Rock Hill, SC; Master of Science degree from the University of Central Arkansas, Conway, AR; and Doctor of Education degree from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee. He is currently serving as the Chief Executive Officer of G.A. Carmichael Family Health Center, a Federally Qualified Community Health Center (FQHC). Dr. Coleman comes with over 22 years of experience and knowledge in the area of Public Health and Health Care Management, and has served as the former Chief Executive Officer with the Margaret J. Weston Community Health Centers, another FQHC, located in Aiken County.

Dr. Coleman most recently served in the capacity of Department Chair for the Division of Health and Natural Science at Voorhees College, Denmark, SC. Moreover, he is also the former Chief Executive Officer of the Wateree Community Action, Inc., a community action agency. He was also employed with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the Division of Adult and Community Health, Community Health and Program Services Branch, within the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion as a Behavioral Scientist, working on efforts to eliminate health disparities through the social determinants of health.

Dr. Coleman has also served as the former Director for the Bureau of Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion with South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control.

Dr. Coleman is positioning G.A. Carmichael Family Health Center to be a solid organization for the communities of Madison, Leflore, Humphrey, Leake and Yazoo Counties in delivering health care services under his internal theme, "Operational Excellence."

Ms. REBECCA DINEEN

*Assistant Commissioner,
Bureau of Maternal and Child Health,
Baltimore City Health Department,
Baltimore, MD*



Rebecca Dineen is the Assistant Commissioner for the Bureau of Maternal and Child Health and leads the B'more for Healthy Babies Initiative at the Baltimore City Health Department where she has worked since 2008. Under this initiative, the City's infant mortality rate has declined by 24% and the disparity in rates between black and white infants has declined by 34%. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Ms. Dineen wrote the strategy for and implemented the citywide COVID-19 vaccination campaign, which reached 80% of the adult population with at least one vaccination. She has 30 years of experience providing support for all stages of project development (proposal, design, implementation, and evaluation) in a variety of areas including: quality assurance, performance improvement for health systems development, training, community mobilization, and behavior change. Rebecca formerly worked in international health starting as a Peace Corps volunteer in the Central African Republic and later worked in multiple countries in Africa and Asia in maternal and child health. She earned a master of science in Health Policy and Management from the Harvard School of Public Health and her undergraduate degree in Philosophy from Northwestern University.



DR. THOMAS ELLISON, MD, PhD

*Medical Service Director and Principal Investigator
Project H.E.L.P. USA
Alabama State Director for Doctors For America Inc.
USA/MRC Bruno-Smithfield Community Health Center
Birmingham, AL*

Dr. Ellison is the Co-Founder of Health Education Linkage Programs Inc. (PROJECT H.E.L.P. USA), a Non-Governmental, Community-Based Health Organization. a member of the United Nations Humanitarian and Medical Relief and Rescue Team, that also provides Community-Based Health Centers in indigent areas of the world, Best Practices with divisions of DHHS, NHI, and CDC as well as Community Based Research. H.E.L.P.'s Mission is to improve the Quality of Life in our Lifetime by Decreasing Disparities, Morbidity, Mortality, Unintentional Injuries and Negative Behaviors while Increasing Access, Knowledge, Sensitivity, and Services. PROJECT H.E.L.P. USA also Sponsors the Project H.E.L.P. Medical Reserve Corps a Division of Department of Health and Human Services ASPR Division and Homeland Security.

BIOGRAPHIES

(Continued)



Ms. SARAH FISCHER

*Community Engagement and Outreach Strategist,
Network of the National Library of Medicine (NNLM),
Medical University of South Carolina
Charleston, SC*

Sarah Fischer is the Community Engagement and Outreach Strategist for Region 2 of the Network of National Library of Medicine (NNLM) headquartered at MUSC. In this role, she engages existing members and recruits new ones, and serves as chair of the Emergency Preparedness and Response Advisory Committee (ERPAC) for the Region. In 2021, Sarah joined MUSC with more than fifteen years of community engagement and organizing experience in local, regional, and international landscapes and contexts. In her free time, she can be found exploring new neighborhoods, sampling culinary specialties, practicing hot yoga, and traveling.



Ms. PAMELA S. GILLAM, MPA

*Director, Center for Applied Research and Evaluation
Office of Research, University of South Carolina
Columbia, SC*

Pamela Gillam is the Director of the Center for Applied Research and Evaluation (CARE) at USC's Arnold School of Public Health. She provides over twenty years of experience and expertise in mixed methods evaluation and research, quality improvement (QI) consultation, and strategic planning facilitation. She collaborates with state agencies, non-profit organizations, healthcare providers and other community partners to improve outcomes on various public health and healthcare issues including maternal and child health, oral health, tobacco cessation, access to reproductive health services and cancer screening. For the past four years, she has been involved in the creation of a statewide strategy to better address social determinants of health.

Ms. Gillam is trained in Lean Six Sigma and the Institute for Healthcare Improvement's Breakthrough Series Collaborative. She has a BA in Urban Studies from the College of Charleston and a MPA from the University of Charleston/USC.

REP. WENDELL G. GILLIARD

*South Carolina State House, District 111,
Charleston, SC*



Wendell Gilliard (Democratic Party) is a member of the South Carolina House of Representatives, representing District 111. He assumed office in 2008. His current term ends on November 11, 2024.

Gilliard (Democratic Party) ran for re-election to the South Carolina House of Representatives to represent District 111. He won in the general election on November 8, 2022.

Gilliard attended Devry School of Technology for three years and acquired political science training courses through United Steel Workers Union classes. He expanded his political science education through the National League of Cities for five years and was awarded the bronze certificate in political science.

Gilliard is a former president of the United Steel Workers Local Union and a former chemical plant operator for Albright and Wilson Chemical Plant. He also served as a city council member from 1999 to 2010. He went on to become the owner of WGG Consulting Company.



MS. JANIECE GLOVER

*MS, PH.D. Candidate, Biomedical Sciences,
Medical University of South Carolina
Charleston, SC*

Janiece Glover is a native of Charleston, SC, and completed her undergraduate degree from Spelman College in Atlanta, GA, with a B.S in Biology. After working in Health Administration at East Cooper Medical Center located in Mount Pleasant, for a few years, she decided to return to school for my master's degree in Biomedical Sciences at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC). Her master's research focused on cardiovascular diseases, specifically Mitral Valve Prolapse. Upon completion, she was accepted into the PhD program in Biomedical Sciences at MUSC and is currently a fourth-year PhD Candidate in Dr. Mindy Engevik's lab. The Engevik lab studies Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD), which encompasses the subsets Crohn's Disease and Ulcerative Colitis. It is a life-long condition characterized by chronic inflammation of the gastrointestinal tract. It has been speculated that gut microbes in IBD patients drive or exacerbate inflammation, but few studies have identified bacterial candidates. Her dissertation project focuses on how the pathogen, *Acinetobacter Calcoaceticus*, can modulate host gene expression and potentially play a role in onset inflammation in the gut.

Janiece is involved within her community and enjoys dedicating her time to mentoring students. She has served as the President of the Black Student Union at MUSC, University Honor Council member and Diversity & Inclusion Chair for the Graduate Student Association. Currently, she is an MUSC Student Ambassador, serves as mentor for the Youth Collaborative Teen Science Ambassador Program and for American Society for Investigative Pathology (ASIP)'s PathForward Undergraduate Program. She has been highlighted in ASIP's Women In Pathology and featured as the Black Microbiologists Association's Rising Star. Janiece's career goal is to become a clinical microbiologist and continue to study microbes and their impact on human health.

BIOGRAPHIES

(Continued)



DR. SAYWARD HARRISON, PhD

*Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology,
University of South Carolina
Columbia, SC*

Sayward Harrison, PhD, is a Health Psychologist and Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of South Carolina, where she runs the Healthy Futures Lab. Dr. Harrison works closely with partners across South Carolina to better understand psychosocial, behavioral, and structural factors that impact care continuums of infectious diseases, including HIV, HPV, and other STIs. She also serves as director of the Supporting Substance Use Disorder Services in South Carolina (SSUDS-SC) Center—a HRSA-funded training center that aims to build capacity among behavioral health professionals to provide integrated care for individuals and communities impacted by the opioid epidemic.



DR. CARRIE HERZKE, MD, SFHM, FAAP, FACP

*Chief Medical Officer,
Medical University of South Carolina
Charleston Division, SC*

Carrie Herzke, MD, SFHM, FAAP, FACP is the MUHA Executive Medical Director and Chief Medical Officer for the Medical University of South Carolina Charleston Division. She graduated from the University of Virginia, earned her M.D. from Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia, and her M.B.A. from Johns Hopkins.

She completed her Medicine and Pediatric residency training at Duke University Medical Center. Dr. Herzke has served as the President of the Maryland Society of Hospital Medicine Chapter. Under her leadership the Chapter won both the Chapter of the Year Award and was recognized as a Platinum Chapter several years in a row. Her research interests include Faculty Development and Managing and Partnering with Difficult Patients. She has presented a number of workshops at SHM national meetings on topics including faculty development, negotiation, and using your Myers Briggs Personality type for career success.



MRS. VANESSA HILL

*Former Anchor for WCIV-TV Evening News
First Host and Spokesperson, Southeastern Spine Institute
Mount Pleasant, SC*

Former weeknight evening anchor, WCIV-TV. First host and spokesperson for the Southeastern Spine Institute. Former Community Liaison for MUSC's Transplant Center. Five years as Development Director for MUSC'S Department of Psychiatry. Currently, small business entrepreneur and owner, designer of Flowers by Vanessa.



MS. HEATHER HOLMES, MLIS, AHIP

*Associate Director of Libraries
Medical University of South Carolina
Charleston, SC*

Heather became the Associate Director of Libraries in February 2016. In this position, Heather is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Library, including supervision of a diverse staff of librarians, technologists, and support staff in areas including reference, education, evidence-based practice, resources/collections, and learning commons. Heather joins us from Summa Health System's Akron City and St. Thomas Hospitals in Akron, OH where she was a Clinical Informationist. Her education background includes: MLIS, Library and Information Science, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA; and BA, Philosophy, Washington & Jefferson College, Washington, PA. She is author of various publications and presentations, and received the following awards: Lois Ann Colaianni Award for Excellence and Achievement in Hospital Librarianship, Medical Library Association (2014); Library Journal Mover & Shaker (2011); and National Library of Medicine Biomedical Informatics Fellowship (2010).

BIOGRAPHIES

(Continued)



DR. RACHEL JACKSON-GORDON

*Research Associate
UNC Charlotte Urban Institute
Concord, NC*

Dr. Rachel Jackson-Gordon is a community-engaged researcher at the UNC Charlotte Urban Institute and focuses on violence prevention. She studies the prevention of multiple forms of violence, with specific scholarly expertise on the implementation of violence prevention programs. Her work has investigated firearm as well as sexual violence prevention programs. Currently, she co-leads the evaluation of the Alternatives to Violence program in Charlotte, North Carolina, which aims to reduce community violence. She will also serve as senior personnel on UNC Charlotte's recently funded Violence Prevention Center. Rachel's research has been disseminated in academic- and practice-focused journals as well as through presentations to local organizations, governments, and coalitions in efforts to reduce the gap between research and practice.

In Dr. Jackson-Gordon's role at the UNC Charlotte Urban Institute, she also conducts community-engaged research and evaluation projects on topics such as affordable housing and homelessness. She uses mixed methods and participatory approaches to answer research questions and generate recommendations to contribute to solutions for problems in the Charlotte Region and beyond. Rachel earned her M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Cincinnati's Educational Studies' Research Methods program, where she focused on Educational and Community-Based Action Research. She believes that by incorporating the voices of people in the community and with lived experience in our work, we can better shape data and research that promote communities where residents can thrive.

REV. DEMETT E. JENKINS, MDIV

*Director of Education and Engagement
Faith-based Communities,
International African American Museum
Charleston, SC*



Rev. DeMett E. Jenkins was born in Chateauroux, France to Ret. Major Abraham B. Jenkins and Georgetta Jenkins and raised in Charleston, South Carolina. She holds a B.S. Degree in Criminal Justice from South Carolina State University in Orangeburg, South Carolina and a Master's of Divinity degree in 2007 from Virginia Union University Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology in Richmond, Virginia with a focus on Pastoral Care and Counseling. For 12 years, Rev. Jenkins worked as a social worker for United Family Services' Shelter for Battered Women as a Counselor, Volunteer Coordinator, Court Advocate and Program Coordinator. Rev. Jenkins developed an outreach program within the Charlotte public housing community, coordinated services with Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department with surviving family members of murdered victims and was a response advocate at a local hospital for sexual assault and domestic violence victims.

Rev. DeMett E. Jenkins was born in Chateauroux, France to Ret. Major Abraham B. Jenkins and Georgetta Jenkins and raised in Charleston, South Carolina. She holds a B.S. Degree in Criminal Justice from South Carolina State University in Orangeburg, South Carolina and a Master's of Divinity degree in 2007 from Virginia Union University Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology in Richmond, Virginia with a focus on Pastoral Care and Counseling. For 12 years, Rev. Jenkins worked as a social worker for United Family Services' Shelter for Battered Women as a Counselor, Volunteer Coordinator, Court Advocate and Program Coordinator. Rev. Jenkins developed an outreach program within the Charlotte public housing community, coordinated services with Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department with surviving family members of murdered victims and was a response advocate at a local hospital for sexual assault and domestic violence victims.

After graduating from seminary, she worked as an Emergency Room and Staff Support Chaplain at Emory Healthcare in Atlanta and Contextual Education Supervisor with first year seminary students and Adjunct Professor at Emory University Candler School of Theology where she taught Pastoral Care and Domestic Violence courses.

Demett is trained in emergency preparedness, disaster relief, CISM crisis management, death, dying, grief and bereavement and certified as a trainer for Education in Palliative and End of Life Care for Emergency Medicine. She volunteers her time with Coastal Crisis Chaplaincy organization that responds to deaths, homicides and other crisis situations with both Charleston and North Charleston Police Departments. Demett has a love for outreach development and community engagement and is currently the Director of Education and Engagement for Faith-Based Communities at the International African American Museum.

She is the granddaughter of the late Esau Jenkins, a civil rights activist from Johns Island, SC who was a leader, businessman, and community organizer. He was the founder and moving spirit of many organizations and institutions which helped improve the political, educational, housing, health and economic conditions of the people on the islands and Charleston at large. Jenkins' bus with whom he transported many people and helped them to learn how to read the constitution so that they would have the opportunity to vote, is now in the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, DC. Demett returned home to Charleston in 2016 after 24 years and is very excited to be continuing the legacy of her grandparents Janie and Esau Jenkins in serving the community.



DR. SHANNON JONES, EdD, MLS, MEd, AHIP, FMLA

*Director of Libraries & Director, NNLM Region 2
Medical University of South Carolina
Charleston, SC*

Dr. Shannon Jones (she/her) is the Director of Libraries for the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston. Shannon is also the Director for Region 2 of the Network of the National Library of Medicine, headquartered at MUSC. Before she arrived at MUSC, Shannon worked as the Associate Director for Research and Education for Tompkins-McCaw Library for the Health Sciences at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond. Shannon focuses her research on staff recruitment and retention, diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging in libraries, and leadership in academic health sciences libraries. In 2018, Shannon co-founded the MLA Reads Virtual Book Discussion Club to provide a forum where participants can learn, discuss, and process the implications of a variety of DEI topics in their work as information professionals and in their personal lives. Shannon is the co-editor of Diversity and Inclusion in Libraries: A Call to Action and Strategies for Success and the forthcoming volume, Cultural Humility in Libraries.

BIOGRAPHIES

(Continued)



REV. DR. JEANNETTE JORDAN-GIBSON

*Registered Dietitian, Certified Diabetes Educator
Former Spokesperson for the American Dietetic Association
Owner, J&J Health Consultants
Goose Creek, SC.*

Dr. Jeannette Jordan-Gibson's heartfelt passion is to educate the public to take charge of their health by developing a healthy lifestyle. She carries out this passion through the use of television, radio, print media, books, seminars, and other health related programs.

She holds a Bachelor and Master's Degree from South Carolina State University in Nutritional Science. She is a Registered Dietitian, Certified Diabetes Educator and Health Disparity Scholar.

She is also an ordained minister and serves as lead pastor at The Church House of Ministries Worldwide in Ladson, SC. She received a Doctor of Theology Degree from The School of the Great Commission Seminary.

She has authored several books: "Relentless Trust" "Health Meditations"; "The Good Health Cookbook"; "Be Good to Yourself" Weight Management Guide and co-authored "Dash for Good Health Southern Style."

MRS. KIMBERLY KASCAK

*Assistant Professor,
Medical University of South Carolina
Charleston, SC.*



Kimberly Kascak is an Assistant Professor in the Office of Interprofessional Initiatives at the Medical University of South Carolina. Her background is in academic innovation and online instructional design in the field of education. She is a co-founder of Pattison's Academy, a non-profit, public charter offering interprofessional education and rehabilitation programs specializing in children with complex healthcare issues. She has developed and coordinated innovative online academic programs with continual ongoing educational support to programs. As a certified TeamSTEPPS Master Trainer, she provides instruction to MUSC students through required interprofessional courses.



REV. DR. JAMES A. KEETON, JR.
Senior Pastor,
Morris Brown AME Church
Charleston, SC

The Reverend Dr. James A. Keeton, Jr., a native of Cairo, Georgia, is the Senior Pastor of Morris Brown African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church in Charleston, South Carolina. In addition to serving in the Palmetto State, he has served congregations in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Georgia. As a child, one of Dr. Keeton’s favorite activities was “playing church.” Using the giant space heater in the living room as his podium, he would often put on his house robe and “re-preach” his father’s sermons from the previous Sunday. His younger sister, Melody, was his musician, and he even served Holy Communion, which consisted of sweet tea and saltine crackers. God was preparing Dr. Keeton even then for a life of ministry.

Dr. Keeton is an Itinerant Elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. As a member of the Palmetto South Carolina Annual Conference in the Seventh Episcopal District, he is the Dean of the Board of Examiners and the Chairperson of the Committee on Presiding Elder Salary and Upkeep. Additionally, Dr. Keeton is a member of the Conference Board of Trustees. He is a member of the executive board of the Emanuel-Morris Brown-Ebenezer (EME) Apartments, Inc. He serves as a board member and the chaplain for the Iva M. Lester Memorial Scholarship Committee.

Dr. Keeton earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from Albany State University, Albany, Georgia, a Master of Arts degree in politics from the National University of Ireland, Dublin, Ireland, a Master of Divinity degree from Duke University Divinity School, Durham, North Carolina, and a Doctor of Ministry degree in Transformational Leadership from Boston University in Boston, Massachusetts. Dr. Keeton has also done further study at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas.

Dr. Keeton understands the intricate connection between the Church and community that is expressed in God’s command to the Prophet Jeremiah “But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare” (Jeremiah 29:7, NRSV). Dr. Keeton is married to the former Leslie Gooch of Thomaston, Georgia, and they share two sons: Tyson and Jeston. He is a member of the Beta Kappa Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Prince Hall Lodge #46 (PHA), and the George Washington Carver Consistory #162 (PHA). In his leisure, Dr. Keeton enjoys listening to jazz, reading, writing, and traveling to new and exciting places.



DR. JEANNETTE KOWALIK, PhD, MPH, MCHES
President & Owner
Jael Solutions Consulting Services
Chicago, IL

Dr. Jeanette Kowalik has two decades of progressive public health experience representing the life course. She began her career as an intern at the City of Milwaukee Health Department in 2002; she returned in 2018 to serve as the Commissioner of Health until fall of 2020. To fulfill Jeanette’s public health calling, she attended Northern Illinois University’s Master of Public Health (MPH) program while maintaining full-time employment in the field. Post completion of her MPH, she attended the Management Academy for Public Health at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and began her doctorate in health sciences at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee shortly thereafter.

BIOGRAPHIES

(Continued)

Dr. Kowalik's initial research focus was eradicating infant mortality disparities among Black and Latina/x/e adolescents; this shifted after she realized the significant gap in research regarding recruitment and retention of a diverse public health workforce. Dr. Kowalik's diverse set of experiences continues to motivate her to represent and advocate for equity through policy and practice change at all levels. The highlights of Dr. Kowalik's public health career to date are collaborating to Declare Racism as a Public Health Crisis in July of 2019 and prioritizing the impact of COVID-19 by race and ethnicity in Milwaukee, which motivated other jurisdictions to do the same thus shifting pandemic resources to those with the greatest needs. Data sharing enabled the country to rapidly discover a disturbing pattern of COVID-19 morbidity and mortality in communities of color. This increased awareness led to recalibration of outreach strategies, policies, and resource allocation to save lives.

After serving as Commissioner of Health, Dr. Kowalik became the Director of Policy Development for the Trust for America's Health, a national, non-profit, bi-partisan health policy organization. 2022 marked Dr. Kowalik's 20th anniversary in public health. Last year, she transitioned to full time consulting at her firm, Jael Solutions Consulting Services, LLC. In addition to being the President of her company, she continues to teach graduate public health students at Baylor University's MPH program and Doctoral of Health Administration program at the Morehouse School of Medicine. Last but not least, she volunteers her time for several non-profit boards and serves as the Chair of the Health Administration section of the American Public Health Association.

Ms. JADEN LARKIN
Student, Allen University
Columbia, SC



Jaden Larkin, a biology major at Allen University with a concentration in pre-health, aspires to become an orthopedic surgeon. She is actively engaged in the STEM Society. In addition, she is a scholar under the Environmental Justice Scholars' Program. Jaden values research collaboration and approaches tasks with a thoughtful and learner's mindset. As the captain of the Color Guard in the Band of Gold and a member of the Allen University Concert Choir, Jaden expresses her artistic side. Additionally, Jaden is a proud member of The Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated and holds the esteemed title of Miss Senior at Allen University. Jaden's passion lies in making a positive impact within her community and excelling in the field of medicine.



MELISSA L. LINDLER, MPA, PMP

*Chief of Staff to Dr. Jennifer Clyburn Reed, Federal Co-Chair
Southeast Crescent Regional Commission (SCRC)
Columbia, SC*

A native of Irmo, South Carolina, Melissa Lindler received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and Master of Public Administration from the University of South Carolina. She also has a graduate certification in public management from Indiana University – Purdue University Indianapolis and Project Management Professional (PMP) certification through the Project Management Institute (PMI).

Throughout her career, Ms. Lindler has enjoyed working in both the public and non-profit sectors. In August 2022, she accepted the role as chief of staff to Dr. Jennifer Clyburn Reed, Federal Co-Chair of the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission (SCRC). Authorized by Congress in the 2008 Food, Conservation, and Energy Act (“the Farm Bill”), SCRC is a federal-state partnership designed to promote and encourage economic development in parts of Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia and all of Florida. In her current role, she serves as a strategic advisor and counsel to SCRC leadership in the agency’s efforts to support job creation, build communities and improve the lives of those who reside in the 428 counties of the seven-state region. SCRC invests in projects that support basic infrastructure, quality healthcare access, business development, natural resource preservation and workforce development.

Prior to her current role, Ms. Lindler served as the director for the Office of Business Opportunities with the City of Columbia, South Carolina. She was responsible for providing support, training, technical assistance, and capital identification to small, minority and women owned businesses in the retail, services, and construction industries. Her duties also included overall management and oversight of the city’s commercial revolving funds, disparity study implementation, contractor and supplier diversity initiative, and the commercial retention and redevelopment program.

Ms. Lindler also served as a congressional staffer for Congressman James E. Clyburn (SC-06) for 12 years. As director of district planning and outreach, her responsibilities included assisting constituents with understanding the federal grant making process, funding identification, evaluation, and policy in relation to education, youth, and early childhood development. Duties also included district scheduling and event planning, communicating with other congressional members and their offices, and managing the Member Representational Allowance (MRA).

Additionally, Ms. Lindler has successfully secured and assisted in the administration of over \$8 million in public and private funding. She received her grants specialist certification from the National Grant Writers Association, and she has a certificate in the Principals and Techniques of Fundraising from the University of Indiana.

She presently serves on the Executive Board/Board of Directors of the International African American Museum currently under development in Charleston, South Carolina and has enjoyed previous service on the boards of The Southeastern Institute for Women in Politics, The Columbia Chapter of the Society, Inc., Jack and Jill of America Foundation, Inc., and the Total Care for the Homeless Coalition.

BIOGRAPHIES

(Continued)



MRS. AYABA LOGAN, MLIS, MPH

*Associate Professor, Academic Faculty Affairs
Research and Education Informationist
Medical University of South Carolina
Charleston, SC*

Mrs. Ayaba Logan is a bridge-builder, an educational navigator and research maven here to assist you. She is passionate about program evaluation, formative assessment, instructional design, technology, qualitative data, data visualization and all things research- design, implementation, analysis, dissemination. Questions make us all grow, so ask away. She joined MUSC Libraries January 2015 as a Research and Education Informationist. In that role, Ayaba is the liaison to Global Health, Graduate Nursing and Public Health programs, Health Service Research, and the Healthcare Studies. In addition to her liaison duties, Ayaba consults on various Research projects including but not limited to systematic reviews, research protocols, manuscript writing, and provides in-depth database searching.



DR. TEMEIA MARTIN

*Assistant Professor, College of Medicine
Medical University of South Carolina
Charleston, SC*

Dr. Temeia Martin is an assistant professor in the departments of Internal Medicine and Psychiatry at the Medical University of South Carolina. She is a native of Jackson, Mississippi and earned her bachelor of science from Xavier University of Louisiana in 2002. After graduating with Cum Laude honors, she matriculated into Howard University College of Medicine in 2002. In 2007, Dr. Martin chose the Medical University of South Carolina to complete her residency. She completed a 5 year dual-residency training program and is currently board certified in Internal Medicine and Psychiatry.

In 2012, Dr. Martin was appointed as the medical director of the adult Sickle Cell Patient-Centered Medical Home and has been recognized as a national expert in sickle cell disease. She also provides hospitalist services to the Institute of Psychiatry, is an active clinical researcher, and holds a faculty position in the College of Health Professions. She is an officer of the Diversity Committee for the College of Medicine and serves on various committees including the Curriculum Committee and Graduate Medical Education Progress Committee. She is the associate program director for the combined Internal Medicine and Psychiatry residency training program. Dr. Martin has demonstrated a commitment to the transformation of sickle cell disease care in adults and actively participates in clinical research serving as co-investigator on multiple studies and grants. She describes her greatest achievement as being inducted into the Gold Humanism Society which directly aligns with her career professional character and innate qualities.

Despite the demands of medicine, Dr. Martin enjoys mentoring youth, college, and graduate students and frequently engages in motivational speaking and community health advocacy in local churches, schools, and various organizations. She has been a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority for over 20 years. A major area of focus is an alliance with local Christians to provide grief support and counseling to the bereaved and survivors of trauma through a multidisciplinary approach. Dr. Martin has adopted her mentor's motto, "Lift as you climb" and has vowed to an ongoing commitment to the community and underserved areas of healthcare disparities.



Ms. OLIVIA MYERS, RDN, LD

*GroceryRx Founder,
Lowcountry Street Grocery,
Charleston, SC*

Olivia Myers is a registered dietitian with Lowcountry Street Grocery in Charleston, SC. She founded GroceryRx, LSG’s produce prescription program, in 2017 with the intention of merging food and healthcare. She oversees the growth of this initiative in efforts to move the dial on medical reimbursement for fresh, nutritious food. Olivia leads on multiple local and state-level boards to promote equality and diversity in the dietetics profession, as well as expanding “food is medicine” strategies across the state.

Olivia’s personal and professional experiences surrounding food have taken many shapes, from homesteading to counseling native populations in rural Alaska to managing the nutrition and food curriculum at a therapeutic wilderness program to working clinically with inpatient and outpatient populations at leading hospitals. The interest in nutrition evolved from many years cooking in kitchens, from bakeries to fine-dining. Food is the root that all of Olivia’s personal and professional ambitions extend from and her entrenched belief is that it has the ability to heal mentally, physically and emotionally.

DR. CRISTINA REYES SMITH, OTD, OTR/L

*Founding Chair, Culturally Sensitive Care Workshop
Associate Professor, Division of Occupational Therapy
College of Health Professions
Medical University of South Carolina
Charleston, SC*



Dr. Cristina Reyes Smith is an Associate Professor and Director of Admissions in the College of Health Professions (CHP) Division of Occupational Therapy at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC). Dr. Smith was named in the “Top 50 Women Leaders of South Carolina” by Women We Admire and serves in multiple national leadership roles including as a Director for the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) Board of Directors (2020-2023) and on the Editorial Board of the Journal of Occupational Therapy Education (JOTE). She is a Co-Founder of the Coalition of Occupational Therapy Advocates for Diversity (COTAD), a national 501c-3 organization. In 2022, Dr. Smith was invited to serve on the American Occupational Therapy Foundation (AOTF) Standing for Research Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity (STRIDE) Committee.

Dr. Smith serves as the Chair of the MUSC Faculty Senate Institutional Advancement Committee and Co-Director of the HRSA-MUSC Occupational Therapy Scholarship program. She also coordinates multiple annual events through the university including the MUSC Culturally Sensitive Care Program, the MUSC Septima P. Clark Poetry Contest celebrating the poetic achievement of children and youth across the state of South Carolina, and the OT Track of the Area Health Education Consortium (AHEC) Summer Careers Academy for prospective health professions students from under-represented backgrounds. She teaches multiple courses on Leadership & Management, advises multiple student organizations including Aprendiendo Juntos/Learning Together and the MUSC COTAD Student Chapter, and mentors doctoral capstone project students in the Entry-Level and Post-Professional OTD programs. She was the Founder and Business Development Coordinator for Vida Bella Services, LLC from 2012 to 2020.

BIOGRAPHIES

(Continued)

Dr. Smith is a graduate of the Occupational Therapy Doctorate (OTD) program at Thomas Jefferson University and the Masters in Occupational Therapy program at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC). Through these programs she completed additional coursework in Cultural Competence & Humility, Disabilities Studies, Global Health, and Graduate Teaching in the 21st Century. She was a participant of the 2021 MUSC Emerging Leaders Program, the 2012 AOTA Emerging Leaders Program, and the 2005-2006 MUSC Presidential Scholars Program as a Student Scholar. She has over 15 years of experience in the field and has expertise in community health promotion, program development, and leadership development with a focus on access to care for underserved communities. She has conducted presentations and published manuscripts locally, nationally, and internationally. Topics have included holistic admissions, workforce diversity, cultural competence and sensitivity, program development, emerging areas of practice, and related themes.

DR. EVERARD O. RUTLEDGE, PHD, LFACHE

Retired Vice President

Bon Secours Health System

Douglasville, GA



Dr. Everard (Rod) Rutledge is Retired Senior hospital and healthcare executive. Rutledge has held key leadership positions since the beginning of his healthcare management career in 1972. He helped pioneer the first community care provider Model in the Midwest and the development and building of the Urban Medical Institute in Baltimore, as well as overseeing the integration of the Liberty Health System with the Bon Secours Baltimore Health Corporation; Transitioning the University of Maryland hospital systems from a public entity to a not for profit public benefit corporation.

In his previous role with Bon Secours, Rutledge was responsible for system-wide community health programs, as well as advocacy, public policy, diversity and identifying community needs throughout the Bon Secours system. Rutledge joined the Bon Secours system in 1996 as Chief Executive officer of Bon Secours Baltimore Health Corporation following the merger with Liberty Health System. He assumed his position as Health System vice president in 1997.

Rutledge has in excess of 44 years of health care experience. He was president and CEO of Liberty Health System. From 1986 to 1990, he was senior vice president, chief operating officer of the University of Maryland Medical System in Baltimore, Maryland. Prior to this, he was director and chief executive officer for Hospital and Health services for the Department of Community Health and Medical Care in St. Louis County, MO. There, he spearheaded the creation of a community care provider model that helped integrate the health department's services with the hospital's clinical services. CEO and Director of L. Richardson Hospital in Greensboro, North Carolina. He has also held other CEO and senior executive positions in public and private healthcare organizations.

Rutledge received a bachelor of science degree from Florida A&M University, a master's of Healthcare Administration from the University of Minnesota and a doctorate in Health Services Management from La Salle University. He is a life Fellow and former regent-at-large of the American College of Healthcare Executives; past president and Life Member of the National Association of Health Services Executives, Adjunct Faculty member MUSC Department Health Services Management.

Dr. Rutledge is member of numerous professional and civic organizations, including Vice Chairman S.C. Mental Health Commission; Member Charleston County Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee; Board Member Center for the Center for Heirs Property Preservation. Chaplain -Coastal Crisis Chaplaincy, Coastal Community Foundation etc. Board Member Athens Area Community Foundation. Dr. Rutledge has published numerous articles focusing on health care issues and community needs.



DR. MYRA HANEY SINGLETON, EdD

*Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Wellness
Medical University of South Carolina
Charleston, SC.*

Dr. Myra Haney Singleton, Ed.D, is the Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Student Wellness in the College of Medicine at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC). She has devoted her personal and professional endeavors to designing programs, building teams, mentoring, and developing policies and initiatives to meet institutional and accreditation standards. Dr. Haney Singleton earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of South Carolina-Columbia, a Master of Education degree with a concentration in Counselor Education from The Citadel, and a Doctor of Education degree from Walden University. Upon completion of her Master's degree, she assumed several leadership responsibilities in the College of Medicine Dean's Office. In her role as Associate Dean, she facilitated the expansion of services for the Group on Student Affairs to enhance the medical education experience. She also has oversight of a wide range of academic support systems, retention initiatives, and the implementation of institutional policies. Dr. Haney Singleton has worked in higher education for over fifteen years. Her professional areas of expertise are counseling and guidance for academic progress and student retention. Throughout her tenure at MUSC, she has worked diligently to support key strategic initiatives of the College of Medicine Group on Diversity Affairs to enhance faculty, resident, and student diversity. Her scholarly work and presentations focus on issues related to student affairs and diversity and inclusion.

As an engaged collaborator in the admissions process and recruitment efforts, Dr. Haney Singleton was actively involved in the creation and implementation of many College of Medicine pipeline programs and served as the director of two recruitment programs. She is well-recognized for her contributions to the development of the nationally recognized College of Medicine recruitment and retention programs. She was an invited presenter at the 2017 Association of American Medical Colleges national meeting, where she shared how the College of Medicine has become a national leader in the matriculation of African American males.

Dr. Haney Singleton is an active member of the MUSC community and serves on several committees at the university and college levels. She is also the recipient of numerous awards and honors including: five College of Medicine Golden Apple Awards, the MUSC 2006 Martin Luther King, Jr., Leadership Award, the 2008 National Association of Medical Minority Educators, Inc., Emerging Leader Award, and the 2014 Minority Access, Inc., National Role Model Award. She also received the 2018 Dream Keepers Award and the 2018 Xi Phi Lambda Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Community Service Award. Most recently, Dr. Haney Singleton received the MUSC 2019 Dr. Earl B. Higgins University Leadership in Diversity Award. As a true champion for diversity, equity, and inclusion, she thoroughly enjoys serving in the areas of advocacy and retention to ensure student academic success.

BIOGRAPHIES

(Continued)



MRS. MELANIE SLAN, MLIS

*Program Manager, Hollings Cancer Center
Medical University of South Carolina
Charleston, SC*

Melanie serves as Program Manager for the Medical University of South Carolina, Hollings Cancer Center Office of Community Outreach and Engagement (COE).

In her role at Hollings, Melanie provides programmatic and operational oversight of the COE Program. As the COE Community Health Educator, she plans, conducts, and assesses community education and outreach aligned with NCI and the Medical University of South Carolina, Hollings Cancer Center research and outreach priorities, within local and regional underserved communities.

She strengthens collaborations with key NCI-sponsored academic, research, community, and regional partners to foster community engagement in research and to enhance the NCI's ability to effectively reach underserved communities with tailored, culturally and linguistically appropriate services (CLAS), and evidence-based cancer information.

Melanie also has expertise in managing community health educators and navigators. She previously managed the Medical University of South Carolina, Hollings Cancer Center mobile breast and cervical cancer screening van and its accompanying patient navigation program. She builds partnerships with community stakeholders at all levels, advancing the Hollings Cancer Center's mission to reduce the cancer burden in South Carolina.



DR. TOM G. SMITH, PhD

*Professor and Associate Director
Center for Academic Excellence/Writing Center
Medical University of South Carolina
Charleston, SC*

In the Center for Academic Excellence and Writing Center (CAE/WC)

at MUSC, Dr. Smith teaches students, postdoctoral fellows, faculty and staff how to improve their writing skills and develop as lifelong learners. He has worked as a science writing teacher and learning specialist since 1992, and was appointed to the MUSC faculty in 1999. He trained at Duke University and the University of South Carolina, which awarded him the Ph.D. in English. Dr. Smith's doctoral work focused on the ways that editors shape the writing and careers of writers, but his training focused on using writing to develop critical thinking and promote learning. Most of his current research focuses on writing and learning in health care settings; he has also published and presented internationally in the area of interprofessional education. He has engaged in numerous collaborations with health science research across disciplines, and is actively engaged in MUSC's various diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives, with current service on the College of Health Professions DEI Committee. His recent scholarship includes a presentation to the AAMC Group on Diversity and Inclusion about the role of academic and communication support in pathway programs.

CULTURALLY SENSITIVE CARE NATIONAL CONFERENCE

As a faculty member at the MUSC CAE/Writing Center, he devotes most of his time to mentoring students and others at the university to assist in launching successful health care careers. Teaching writing to students and faculty on a daily basis, he also counsels students from all health care fields on ways to learn more effectively. He is an integral part of MUSC's efforts to prepare students for their board and certifying exams across the range of health professions. Across professions, he supports and teaches in the pathway programs that bring students under-represented in health care closer to training at MUSC and careers taking care of others. He works extensively to support grant writing from scholars in all disciplines and frequently acts as a consulting writer or editor for entities across the university. In 2012, Dr. Smith won the MUSC Foundation Teaching Excellence Award—Educator/Mentor Category, and won the College of Medicine's Golden Apple Award in 2018, an award he has been nominated for 12 times. Dr. Smith was named a Nazzaro Fellow at MUSC upon completion of the Trustees' Leadership Academy in 2008.

An active university citizen since his appointment in 1999, Dr. Smith is currently Chair of the 55-member Academic Affairs Faculty. He was elected to two terms as President of the MUSC Faculty Senate, 2013-2015. He served on Search Committees for the University President, the College of Medicine Dean, and the Associate Provost for Education and Student Life. Presidents Greenberg and Cole named him to serve on MUSC's last two strategic planning committees.



MR. LORENZO STEELE, JR.

*Dean, Invest Collegiate Middle/High School,
Charlotte, NC*

Lorenzo Steele Jr. is a Dean at Invest Collegiate Middle/Highschool and has a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice, an accomplished visual artist, author and a former New York City Corrections officer that has served 12 years in the nation's most violent adolescent detention center (RNDC) located on NYC's Rikers Island.

Throughout his employment with DOC Mr. Steele captured some of the most captivating and horrid images ever taken behind prison walls. After leaving the department Mr. Steele took with him experience and knowledge about prison life that he now shares with the youth, parents, as well as educators in an attempt to deter violence and incarceration. He's also excelled in the art of photography, which he strategically uses to lay a credible platform for the effective edification of young adults.

By starting a youth development program in 2001, Lorenzo provides workshops, training and consultation in school districts throughout NYC. Mr. Steele targets trouble youth who are in need of awareness about the criminal justice system and its harsh realities. Exclusive experience and visual effect has allowed Mr. Steele to work as a New York City Board of Education vendor where he assists schools with conflict resolution, gang/gun awareness, bullying, and literacy training workshops. The program was designed to reduce incidents and to induce consequential thinking.

Lorenzo has worked with District Attorneys offices in Brooklyn/ Queens and Nassau Long Island providing gang and prison awareness to at-risk youth in schools and communities. With such an analysis of the prison system and images depicting life on the inside, colleges such as Columbia University, John Jay College, and New Rochelle College have allowed him to present at their institutions for the edification of scholars, alumni, and faculty for the purpose of gaining an in-depth analysis of the criminal justice system and those individuals most likely to end up on it's punitive side. He has appeared on television networks such as WABC's "Like It Is" and recently on CNN discussing Rikers Island solitary confinement units.

Mr. Steele has serviced numerous agencies such as the National Association of Mental Illness NAMI, Administration for Children's Services (ACS), United Federation of Teachers (UFT) as well as Nassau/Suffolk (BOCES) school systems. In addition Lorenzo has received numerous awards from the Congressional Senate, and State Assemblyman for his commitment to community service and dedication to children. Lorenzo Steele Jr. continues to use the power of storytelling through the arts to change the decision-making process of thousands of youth that were heading down the wrong path in life.

BIOGRAPHIES

(Continued)



MS. KELLY TROYER

Development Coordinator

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

Charleston, SC

Kelly Troyer is a passionate advocate for people with mental health conditions. She has been a mental health advocate for twenty-five years on a local, state, and national level. She is a native of Greenville, SC and currently resides in Charleston, SC. Kelly is currently the Development Coordinator for NAMI Charleston Area.

Kelly served on the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Greenville Board of Directors for four years. She served as the Executive Director January 2005- May 2012. She is a Board Member of Disability Rights SC. She was appointed in October 2013 and continues to serve. Kelly also serves on Joint Council for Childrens Mental Health which she represents parents of all SC kids with disabilities. She was appointed in 2015 for this Board Position. She was one of four chosen in SC to steer the Breaking Boundaries Planning Grant from 2011-2013. This was the foundation for the Palmetto System of Care. The strategic planning started in Washington, DC with support of SAMHSA, Georgetown University and The Technical Assistance Partnership (NFFCMH).

In November 2002, her family was featured in an eight-page article in the US News & World Report magazine. The article received a 2003 Mental Health Media Award from the National Mental Health Association, and the 2003 NAMI Outstanding Media Award for science and health reporting.

She takes all opportunities to speak to churches, schools, civic organizations, legislators, and media to advocate for people who are not able to speak for themselves. There is a huge imbalance between justice and injustice in this world. In this vast divide is where character is defined. Kelly wants all individuals affected by disabilities to live life to their full potential. Her life goal is to change policy and increase awareness that all people will be treated with dignity and respect.



MR. DERRICK WATCHMAN

President/Owner

Sagebrush Hill Group LLC

Window Rock, AZ

Derrick Watchman is an experienced executive with over 35 years of commercial and tribal business experience in gaming and banking. Derrick is President of Sagebrush Hill Group LLC, a tribal affairs, financial advisory services, and economic development advisory company from Window Rock, Navajo Nation, Arizona. Derrick is a member of the Navajo Nation and was raised on the Navajo reservation. Derrick was the Chief Executive Officer for the Navajo Nation Gaming Enterprise, the gaming operator for the Navajo Nation casinos. He started at Navajo gaming as the Chief Financial Officer.

Derrick led the gaming enterprise in its expansion of 3 casinos employing over 1,700 employees. Prior Derrick was Vice President and Senior Relationship Manager at JP Morgan Chase Bank's Native American Banking Group. He provided tribal financial and banking services for gaming tribes around the country. Previously, he worked for the Wells Fargo Bank handling Native American gaming banking and financing. Mr. Watchman was Chief Operating Officer and General Manager of the Navajo Nation's Dinè Power Authority where he advised on Navajo Nation energy projects. He also held the Navajo Tax Commission Director post. Mr. Watchman also worked with Prudential Capital Corporation as a private placement banker. Among several directorships, he is a member of the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development Board of Directors, a director for the Native American Bancorporation and a member of the Dinè Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Watchman holds an MBA from the University of California and a bachelor's degree from the University of Arizona.

Ms. REAGAN WEAVER

*Student,
College of Charleston
Charleston, SC*



Reagan Weaver is a sophomore at the College of Charleston, majoring in Biochemistry with the intent of going to medical school. Reagan is a part of Women in STEM, Yoga Club, and CHARRG. In the upcoming year, Reagan will serve as the CougarThon Fundraising Coordinator for Charleston Miracle. She has also previously worked with a Dermatologist and is currently working with a Podiatrist. Reagan will be presenting on Gender Inequities in healthcare today.



Ms. TAMECA WILSON

*Director of Maternal Infant Health
March of Dimes
Columbia, SC*

Tameca Wilson is the Director of Maternal and Infant Health for March of Dimes, South Carolina. In this role she leads March of Dimes mission impact at the local level by engaging and mobilizing community partners and building strong volunteer relationships to focus on eliminating health disparities within maternal and infant health.

Her career has always been health care focused, encompassing experiences at academic medical centers, federally qualified health centers, and consulting. It is from her various roles that her work turned into a passion for improving the patient experience and health outcomes. She currently serves on a several boards and committees including: SC Birth Outcomes Initiative Vision Team and Birth Equity Committee co-chair, SC Perinatal Association and SC Doula Steering Committee.

Tameca received her Bachelor's of Arts, in Communications, from Hampton University and her MBA with a concentration in Healthcare Marketing, from the University of New Haven.



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