

University of Dayton

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Newsletter: Community Connections

Fitz Center for Leadership in Community

3-2023

Community Connections, March 2023

University of Dayton. Fitz Center for Leadership in Community

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FCLC March 2023 Newsletter

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University of Dayton

Fitz Center for Leadership
in Community

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The Fitz Center for Leadership in Community
has a new office located at The Hub Powered
by PNC Bank at The Dayton Arcade**

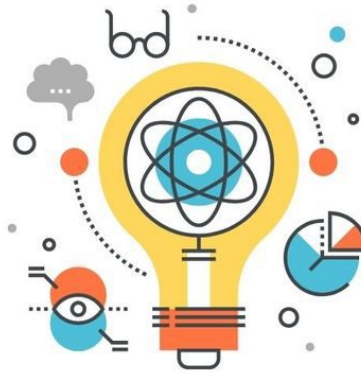


The Hub is a joint venture between University of Dayton and the Entrepreneurs' Center that provides coordinated and centralized resources for area entrepreneurs, creators, students and teachers. The Hub was also a catalyst for the redevelopment of The Arcade.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Fitz Center becomes home to The Urban Research Initiative

Created by a generous donation to the Fitz Center for Leadership in Community, the Urban Research Initiative project assists the Dayton City Manager and staff with an enhanced research capacity and implementation assistance to address a range of opportunities and challenges unique to the city's economy, location, neighborhoods, and history. Click the link below to learn more about the Urban Research Initiative.



Training and Technical Assistance

The Urban Research Academy is also offering an array of training targeted to help neighborhood residents, leaders, and nonprofit staff. The very first training—DATA ACADEMY is on how to collect, download, and use data to meet the needs of funders when writing grants or reporting progress. The training will also help City residents measure progress on indicators in their neighborhood. The session will explore open data from local, county, regional, state, and national sources. Attendees will learn how to collect and store their own program data and steps for sharing data with the community. This is a "hands on" event, and we will be collecting and reporting data in exercises during the session.

Click the link below for more information about additional trainings that will be offered later in the year.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Training and Technical Assistance

This free training presented by The Urban Research Initiative is available on Monday, March 13, 2023 from 9 am to 3 pm, at the Fitz Center at 1401 S. Main Street Dayton, OH 45409.



Funders and citizens all want access to more data. Every group, nonprofit or neighborhood can benefit from knowing how to find, report, and use data. If reporting data makes you anxious or you want to further your skills--this free training is for you.

DATA ACADEMY

AMY JOMANTAS, MS
Director of the Urban Research Institute

SHARON HAWKINS, MPA, MSN/ED AND RN
Del Mar Fellow

SAMANTHA KENNEDY, MA, MPA
Director of Grants & Assessment

PRESENTED BY URBAN RESEARCH INITIATIVE OF THE FITZ CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP IN COMMUNITY

**MARCH 13, 2023
9 AM TO 3 PM**

For more information contact:
937-229-5400 or
ajomantas1@udayton.edu

Paid Summer Internship with Ethics and Leadership Initiative

Applications must be submitted by Friday, March 10, 2023



PAID SUMMER INTERNSHIP

Summer at UD

The Ethics and Leadership Initiative

THE DAYTON FOUNDATION FITZ CENTER

Learn How You Can Be Value-Driven No Matter Your Workplace
Applications must be submitted by FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 2023

APPLY NOW

Internship includes:

- ✓ \$7500 Stipend
- ✓ Placements across many fields of study
 - Dayton Mayor's Office
 - ThinkTV
 - Learn to Earn
 - And MORE!
- ✓ Space to learn about and reflect on ethics in the workplace
- ✓ Strong community of peers

FOR MORE INFORMATION: CONTACT DR. CHRISTA JOHNSON cjohnson7@udayton.edu



GREAT MIAMI
Riverway

2023 RIVERWAY SUMMIT

at the Historic Sidney Theater
April 14, 2023

**2023 Riverway Summit
April 14 – Sidney, Ohio**

TICKET INFORMATION BELOW

RECENT EVENTS



Photos by Glenna Jennings



Opening Panel: A House is Not a Home

From left to right: Shelly M. Corbin, Taylor Curtis, Ernesto Rosen Velasquez, Guy Jones and Faheem Curtis-Khidr



Keynote Speaker: Tim Thomas

"Eviction Reform & Housing Justice Through Collaborative Research & Public Engagement"

Community in Action!

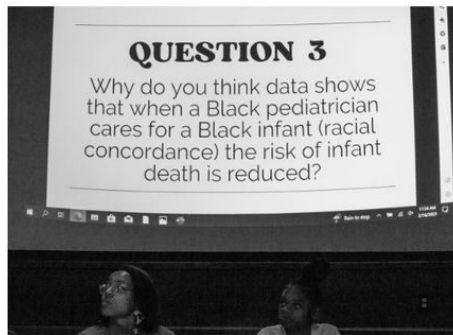




Health Equity Panel : Oh..., THAT Hit Home: Dayton Black Infant Mortality Rates

From left to right: Sharon Hawkins, Gayle C. Fowler, Molly Malany Sayre, Tiffany Terry, Tiffany Pullen

Hard Question About Black Infant Mortality



Keynote: Lawrence T. Brown

The Black Butterfly Dream Lab and "Community Conversation and Solution Generation Around Housing Justice Strategies in Dayton"



Engaged Community Members!



Keynote: Aaliyah Baker

"The Tale of Many Cities: Black Families and the Stories of Segregated Housing and Schools"





Special shout out to all the volunteers who helped make this event a GREAT success!

We are very grateful to everyone who donated their time and energy to the symposium. Thank you all so much!

Here are the groups that our volunteers represented:

- Alpha Pi Omega
- Black Law Students Association (BLSA)
- Dayton Civic Scholars
- Ethics and Leadership Initiative
- Fitz Center Staff and GAs
- Flyer Promise
- Marianist Leadership Scholars
- Phi Sigma Rho
- River Stewards



Partner Feature

Interviewed by Anita Armstead

Can you tell me a little about yourself and your role at Miami Valley Child Development Center (MVCDC)?

I am originally from Northern Kentucky, but I have lived in Springfield since I graduated from Cumberland College in 1992. Fortunate to have two beautiful daughters (26 & 28) plus an amazing granddaughter who is 8. Both of my children attended MVCDC Head Start and are now leading successful lives. Prior to my time here I spent 18 years in Public Health at the Clark County Combined Health District as a Health Educator/Public Information Officer. My current role is the Director of Health and Nutrition for MVCDC for the past 5 years. I work with a great team who oversees the Health and Nutrition components of our program. This includes ensuring children receive healthy meals while in our care, toothbrushing at least one time while in session. Additionally, we work with families to make sure all children have a physical, dental, vision, and hearing checked. As well as current immunizations. We also work to connect families to a consistent medical home. Our goal is to ensure that the children are healthy and ready to learn every day.

MVCDC is dedicated to supporting families experiencing poverty and helping their children get ready for kindergarten. Why is approaching this with a person's cultural traditions important and has this shown to actually help families thrive?

Our role at MVCDC is to meet the family and child where they are and build upon their strengths. One of those strength is their cultural tradition. Our teachers and staff work to understand and represent the diverse

**Anita Biles-
Director of Health and
Nutrition at Miami Valley Child
Development Center**



cultures of children and families. Our goal is to include the cultures of all children, celebrate their traditions and introduce other children to new cultures outside of what they know. This can include the children and parents seeing a teacher who speaks their home language as well as the language used in classroom, celebrating all holidays, and ensure that the menu reflects the diversity of the classroom. These actions help the families to feel comfortable in our building, which then leads to a better relationship with the teacher and family support specialist. Ultimately resulting in the child being better prepared for kindergarten both socially and academically. MVCDC currently serves Hispanic families from many countries in Central and South America, Turkish families and a growing Creole population.

MVCDC is currently working with Faculty Fellow Arne Romanoskwi on creating a reusable product, such as a pamphlet, podcast, or another type of material, that can be useful to community and future health practitioners' approach to helping families with healthy habit formation. How can you ensure this resource reflects the dialogic meeting of practices and does not privilege or

discount neither cultural practice nor scientific approach to healthy habit formation?

I believe the best way to ensure authenticity is to include the families we are working with in the process of creating these opportunities. Listening to their feedback, including criticism, and adjust the practice to reflect their suggestions. If they are part of the process then they will buy into the practices. Parent voice and partnerships with families are a critical part of the Head Start two generational approach and MVCDC's philosophy.

UD was a part of the collaboration of this project. How do you envision future partnerships with the University of Dayton?

We are extremely excited about our partnership with UD and already thinking about potential future opportunities. We would like to continue our efforts in working with our families on healthy habits not just in the classroom, but at home as well. We also want to identify what the barriers are to living a healthy lifestyle and how can MVCDC AND UD help them overcome those barriers. We are really just starting what is hoped to be a fantastic partnership.

Faculty Feature

Interviewed by Anita Armstead

Tell me a little about yourself and your work with UD and in the community.

I am an Assistant Professor of Spanish in the Department of Global Languages and Cultures here at UD, where I teach undergraduate courses in Spanish Language and in Latin American Cultural Studies and Literature. I also teach a course on Spanish for the Health Professions, which focuses on the development of linguistic and cultural competency for future healthcare professionals. This semester and during Spring 2024, students in this class will participate in a series of community dialogues with caregivers of children who identify as Latino/x/as. We are very excited about this opportunity to share and learn together, and about working with our community partner, the Miami Valley Child Development Centers (MVCDC).

Can you talk about your work surrounding healthy habit formation among families that identify as Latino/x/a and why that project is important to you?

Through personal experience and anecdotal evidence of people close to me, I know that ethnic bias and misinterpretation in healthcare are much more common than one may think. Such errors are often rooted in the belief that there are universal truths and knowledge embedded in Western (Eurocentric) ways of knowing and being in the world.

My project aims to ground itself in decolonial thought and practice, which seeks to question the way Western (Eurocentric) knowledge and culture are perceived to be universal and

Arne Romanowski
Faculty Fellow; Assistant
Professor of Spanish in Global
Languages & Cultures



superior. One of its main goals is the preservation and validation of existing knowledge that has historically often been sidelined. In collaboration with the students in my class and the staff and families at the MVCDC, we have been able to set up three dates when students will meet and dialogue with caregivers about how they were taught and how they teach children healthy habits, what approaches they use, and what community resources and knowledge they share. The goal is for these encounters to be dialogic meetings that do not privilege nor discount cultural practice or scientific approaches to helping children learn how to live healthily.

This project appreciates caretakers as actors of pedagogies of cultural citizenship, and points to the complexities of each person's existence and roles in our system. For students—many of whom will be future healthcare providers—this will be an opportunity to learn and act from a place of responsibility rather than guilt, and to step away from a deficit model associated with minoritized communities, and towards new forms of understanding.

As you prepare for your work in the community, was there a specific moment that inspired you?

While this is still a new project, during the planning phase there have been many moments that have been inspiring. The Fitz Center's belief in and support of this project gave me the impulse to imagine it becoming a reality. From the very first meeting with the MVCDC until now, it has been evident that we share many principles and a willingness to collaborate and pivot during this planning phase. I have also been inspired by this organization's investment in not only the children in their head start programs, but in their families as communities. Finally, my students' interest and investment in the project, and their curiosity, questions, and reflections as we prepare to meet the community have been nothing short of motivating for me. I am looking forward to many more inspiring moments as this project moves forward.

What is the most important takeaway you want your students to understand before completing their educational program at UD?

I want them to understand their responsibility as well as their potential as global citizens. This includes the ability to critically reflect on their own positionality as well as that of others, a genuine investment in practices of equity, a continuous commitment to listening actively, and the power of an asset-based approach to tackling difficult questions, interactions, and the processes involved in finding solutions.

Student Highlight

Interviewed by Anita Armstead

Caroline Turnbull Class of 2025



Can you tell me a little bit about yourself and your time here at University of Dayton?

A little bit about me, my name is Caroline Turnbull. I grew up just north of Dayton, in Troy, and am a sophomore in the UD Sinclair Academy studying chemical engineering. My dad was my big inspiration in choosing my major and has been a huge supporter of me connecting back to the environment, as that is what his prior job entailed for him. I've worked at the same family owned bakery for 5 years and have a loving appreciation for small businesses that give back to their community. I play coed softball in the summer with my friends and enjoy time swimming any chance I get.

You are currently a UD-Sinclair Academy student. Can you tell me about that experience?

My first year in the academy was a little rough

for sure. I felt like I was still high school because I was still living at home and felt it extremely hard to meet people at Sinclair. I excelled at school and loved my classes but was drastically missing the social aspect. I became extremely independent that first year but over the summer made the decision that I wanted to start feeling more like a UD student. I joined the River Stewards and I was welcomed with open, comforting arms. Everyone, in all cohorts, did not make me feel weird for not being like the rest of them and Leslie made sure that I was well accommodated from the very first day. I do feel like I am living two worlds and the balance has been the key part. I have friends and opportunities at UD and I love feeling special to Dayton through the River Stewards, but I am humbled every day when I make the drive home and remind myself that just because my experience is a little odd, doesn't mean I should ever be ashamed of it. The UD Sinclair Academy has given me a cheaper alternative to a great education and college experience.

In what ways do you see yourself continuing to contribute to the work being done to strengthen and support our community?

Up until my involvement with River Stewards, I thought my involvement in the community would strictly consist of networking for my career. I had no idea how wide my eyes would become at everything I have already been exposed to around my home and at Dayton and the things I wished I would have known about sooner. I think the downside to majoring in engineering is the lack of understanding for larger worldly issues that deal strictly with people. Most engineers lack the ability to connect and understand the larger population and deal with important social issues. I hope to change that precedent and use my degree to not only work and improve industry, but to learn what can be done for my home. As of now, I'm learning what the disconnect is between Dayton and water and everything in between.

I hope to grow my knowledge into other areas of interest and to understand more about the water and chemical contamination surrounding the Miami Valley. I want to see how a chemical engineer can make a direct impact to this area of interest and how being a present citizen can grow me as being a person rather than just an engineer.

**Do you know a community partner,
faculty or staff member, or student that
should be recognized for their
community engagement in our next
newsletter?**

**Please submit your
recommendations to
aarmstead1@udayton.edu**

**Don't forget to follow
The Fitz Center
on Instagram, LinkedIn, and
like and follow us on Facebook!**

(See links below)



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