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The Impact of Community Engagement: The Perspective of a Community Member

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Location

VCU ASPIRE, 835 W. Grace St., Richmond VA

Disciplines

Higher Education



THE IMPACT OF COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT: THE
PERSPECTIVE OF A
COMMUNITY MEMBER

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Vice President for Clinical Research Administration and Compliance

VCU Health System

May 14, 2015

OVERVIEW

- ❖ Humble beginnings
- ❖ The City of Nashville
- ❖ Meharry Medical College
- ❖ The Journey of Impact



HUMBLE BEGINNINGS



THE CITY OF NASHVILLE

- ❖ Nashville, Tennessee
- ❖ Population: over 620,000
- ❖ Median Income: \$45K
- ❖ Predominantly White
- ❖ Predominantly Female
- ❖ 80% of adult population are HS graduate
- ❖ 12% of families living in poverty



TN Dept of Health: Office of Policy

NASHVILLE: HEALTHY COMMUNITY?

- ❖ 2nd worst crime
- ❖ 2nd most teen pregnancy
- ❖ 2nd worst in cholesterol screening
- ❖ 1st in binge drinking
- ❖ 4th in diabetes mortality
- ❖ 4th in breast cancer incidence



TN Dept of Health: Office of Policy; N-14

THE SALT WAGON STORY

- ❖ In the 1820s, 16-year old Samuel Meharry was hauling a salt wagon in Kentucky
- ❖ Helped by a newly freed Black family who out him up, fed, and helped repair the salt wagon
- ❖ Vowed to help the race when he was able
- ❖ In 1866, Freedman Aid Society wanted to elevate former slaves
- ❖ The Meharry family responded with \$30K and property



MEHARRY MEDICAL COLLEGE

- ❖ Meharry Medical College
- ❖ Founded in 1876 to teach former slaves the art of healing
- ❖ Diversify the healthcare workforce
- ❖ Currently, the largest producer of minority PhDs in the country



MEHARRY IN THE COMMUNITY

- ❖ Health fairs
- ❖ Free screenings
- ❖ Financial planning (MSPH)
- ❖ Presentations to community groups
- ❖ Clinics all around the Nashville community
- ❖ Participated in community conversations



MEHARRY'S IMPACT





DIRECTOR OF THE CLINICAL RESEARCH CENTER

- ❖ In 2002, I was hired by Meharry Medical College and lead the Clinical Research Center
- ❖ Oversaw all operations for human subjects research and specifically clinical trials
- ❖ Most studies exceeded accrual goals and secured a \$10M grant for infrastructure
- ❖ Very visible in the community as I saw as a child



CAREER: SERVICE AND RESEARCH

❖ Supported Institutes, Centers, and Departments

- Over 500 publications
- Over \$100M in grant funded
- 100s of faculty

❖ Participated in community engagement at some level my entire career

❖ Continue to support the academic, research, clinical, and service missions of higher education

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

From...

- ❖ Assessment
- ❖ Gathering data
- ❖ Service to the university
- ❖ Identifying organizations
- ❖ Temporary good will

To...

- ❖ Impact
- ❖ Building relationships
- ❖ Service to the community
- ❖ Identifying partners
- ❖ Sustainable presence