



# Community-Engaged Research Institute May 8-9, 2014 Presenter Bios

Community-Engaged Research Institute

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## Community-Engaged Research Institute May 8-9, 2014 Presenter Bios

**Name:** Catherine Howard, PhD

**Title:** Vice Provost, VCU Division of Community Engagement, and Associate Professor, VCU Department of Psychology

**Presentation Title:** Welcome and Introductions

**Short Bio:** Dr. Howard became the first Vice Provost of Community Engagement in 2006 when VCU identified community engagement as a central theme in its strategic plan. She co-chairs the university's Council for Community Engagement and administers the array of programs housed within the Division of Community Engagement. During her tenure at VCU, Dr. Howard has served as the primary investigator on grants from the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, the Corporation for National and Community Service, the Department of Housing and Urban Development COPC program, the Jesse Ball DuPont Fund, and the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and Public Policy. These grants have helped establish many of the community-based initiatives at VCU. Her initial research interests involved the study of risk-taking and prosocial behaviors of adolescents, more recently it has focused on university-community partnerships.

**Name:** Sarah Kye Price, PhD

**Title:** Ph.D. Program Director and Associate Professor at the VCU School of Social Work

**Presentation Title:** Community-Based Participatory Research: Key Principles

**Short Bio:** Dr. Price is the PhD Program Director and Associate Professor in the School of Social Work at VCU where she pursues a dedicated community engaged research agenda focused on women's mental health during and around the time of pregnancy. Since beginning her research career in 2001, she has received developmental support through NIMH sponsored predoctoral training at the Center for Mental Health Services Research at Washington University in St. Louis, and as an NIH supported KL2 Faculty Scholar within the VCU Center for Clinical and Translational Research. She has worked with community programs to design, implement, and evaluate interventions to support women with perinatal depression and other pregnancy-related mental health challenges. Her current research project, Behavioral Health Integrated Centralized Intake in Virginia is funded through HRSA/ACF in partnership with the Virginia Department of Health.

**Name:** Jesse Senechal

**Title:** Assistant Director of Research and Evaluation, Metropolitan Education Research Consortium

**Presentation Title:** School-Based Action Research: Reframing Teachers as Researchers

**Short Bio:** Jesse Senechal is the Assistant Director of Research and Evaluation for the Metropolitan Educational Research Consortium (MERC) in VCU's School of Education. Through his work with MERC, he has led a wide range of applied research and evaluation projects, many in collaboration with surrounding Richmond-area school divisions, local non-profits, institutions of higher education, and state agencies including the Virginia Department of Education and the State Council for Higher Education. In addition to this evaluation work, Mr. Senechal initiated the MERC Action Research Initiative, an effort to train teachers in the methods of teacher action research and support them as they conduct studies in their classrooms and schools and disseminate the results to the broader educational community.

**Name:** Amber Haley, MPH

**Title:** Associate Director of the Community Engagement Core, VCU Center for Clinical and Translational Research

**Presentation Title:** CEnR Resources at VCU: What We Can Do For You

**Short Bio:** Amber Haley leads the CEC's initiatives to foster and enhance community-academic partnerships with the goal of improving health outcomes of Greater Richmond residents. Through her work with the CEC, she actively partners with the Division of Community Engagement to support CEnR training opportunities for faculty, students, and community partners and has been instrumental in the development of the CEnR Institute, CEnR lunch and learn lecture series, and a series of training modules for community partners the building community capacity in CEnR. She has completed CEnR projects in eight communities across the United States and maintains an ongoing community-based research initiative, Engaging Richmond. As a member of the Engaging Richmond community-university research team her work focuses on the importance of community engagement in translating social determinants of health research into useful evidence for various stakeholders, developing community-driven research agendas, and creating strategic partnerships to address community identified priorities. She has presented CEnR research findings to local service providers, for policy makers, and at academic conferences.

**Name:** Valerie Holton, PhD, LCSW

**Title:** Director of Community-Engaged Research, VCU Division of Community Engagement

**Presentation Title:** CEnR Resources at VCU: What We Can Do For You

**Short Bio:** Dr. Valerie Holton joined the Division of Community Engagement at VCU in 2012. In her current role, she leads the Division's involvement in building university-wide infrastructure to advance community-engaged research (CEnR). Additionally, she supports the development of the Division's and University's capacity to track and measure the impact of VCU's engagement with our communities. Dr. Holton received her B.A. in Psychology from The College of William & Mary and her MSW and Ph.D. in Social Work from VCU. She is a licensed clinical social worker for the Commonwealth of Virginia.

**Name:** Meryl Sufian, PhD

**Title:** Program Officer, Division of Clinical Innovation, National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS), National Institutes of Health (NIH)

**Presentation Title:** The Importance of Community Engagement for Translational Research

**Short Bio:** Dr. Meryl Sufian is currently a Program Officer in the Division of Clinical Innovation (DCI) at the NIH National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS). She provides programmatic management for a grant portfolio with an emphasis on the engagement of communities in translational research. Dr. Sufian provides oversight of several Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA) institutions and a national conference on community engagement. She is a member of the NCATS Advisory Council Patient Engagement Committee. Dr. Sufian was a co-author of Principles of Community Engagement, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (2011), a CTSA collaborative project.

Prior to joining DCI, Dr. Sufian was in the Office of Science Policy in NCATS and the National Center for Research Resources (NCRR) where she conducted a program evaluation of the national CTSA program. Dr. Sufian also served as a Program Officer at the National Cancer Institute where she managed a program of cancer survivorship and chaired a Health Disparities Interest Group.

Prior to NIH, Dr. Sufian had extensive experience in conducting community-based health-related research with federal and state funding. She has many years of experience in conducting behavioral health intervention research with high-risk populations, community demonstration projects, and the evaluation of national programs. She received a B.A. from Hunter College in Sociology and a Ph.D. from The Graduate School, City University of New York in Medical Sociology.

**Name:** Rebecca S. Etz, PhD

**Title:** Assistant Professor, Family Medicine and Population Health; Co-director, Ambulatory Care Outcomes Research Networks

**Presentation Title:** Sources of Knowledge: Cultural Gaze, Participatory Research and the Inspiration of Sojourner Truth

**Short Bio:** Rebecca S. Etz, PhD is a cultural anthropologist with expertise in qualitative research methods and design with three driving motivations to her work: 1) meaningful research begins with purposeful listening to those most likely to be affected by your work, 2) current primary care delivery does not yet do enough to embrace experience and outcomes meaningful to patients, and 3) current trends in community engagement fall short of their desired goal to bring the worlds of medicine, public health and community together in collaboration for improved population health. Dr. Etz is interested in establishing medical records that give voice to patient concerns. Her previous research activities (funded by NIDDK, NHLBI, AHRQ and RWJF) have included studies in behavioral health, care coordination, preventive care delivery, cancer screening, care team models, organizational change and adaptive use of health information technologies. Dr. Etz enjoys regular collaboration with The Robert Graham Center for Policy Studies in Family Medicine and Primary Care and with the American Board of Family Medicine.

**Name:** Saba W. Masho, MD, MPH, DrPH

**Title:** Associate Professor of Epidemiology Department of Family Medicine and Population Health and Obstetrics and Gynecology; Institute for Women's Health Director of Community Engaged Research

**Presentation Title:** Participatory Partnership Evaluation

**Short Bio:** Dr. Saba Masho is an Associate Professor of Epidemiology in the department of Family Medicine and Population Health and Obstetrics and Gynecology at VCU. Dr. Masho is the director of Community Engaged Research at the VCU Institute for Women's Health. She is a principal investigator and co-investigator of multiple federally funded research projects in the area of perinatal health, provision of comprehensive care to underserved pregnant women, and youth violence. She has authored numerous peer-reviewed journal articles and given several national scientific presentations.

**Name:** Carlin Rafie, RD, PhD

**Title:** Director of Research Affiliates for VCU Massey Cancer Center

**Presentation Title:** CEnR at VCU: The Faculty Learning Community (FLC) Case Studies

**Short Bio:** Dr. Rafie manages the extension of cancer information and research into the larger service community of the Cancer Center through the formation of community partnerships and research networks. She is an Investigator on multiple projects that use a community-based approach to assess health needs and develop evidenced-based interventions to respond to those needs. She is instrumental in the development and implementation of outreach activities to address identified community needs related to cancer. Her areas of education and expertise include dietetics and nutrition, the relationship of nutrition to cancer prevention and survivorship, and cancer clinical trials management.

**Name:** Antonio Garcia

**Title:** Director of Jazz Studies at VCU

**Presentation Title:** CEnR at VCU: The Faculty Learning Community (FLC) Case Studies

**Short Bio:** Antonio J. Garcia is a performer, composer/arranger, producer, clinician, educator, and author in both instrumental and vocal genres and serves as the Director of Jazz Studies at VCU. The partnership he has created between VCU Jazz and the Centre for Jazz and Popular Music at the University of KwaZulu-Natal merited the 2013 VCU Community Engagement Award for Research. He has performed as trombonist, bass trombonist, or pianist with 70 major artists including Ella Fitzgerald, George Shearing, Mel Torme, Bill Eckstine, Doc Severinsen, Louie Bellson, Dave Brubeck, and Phil Collins and is an avid scat-singer. Tony serves as Associate Jazz Editor for the *International Trombone Association Journal*, Past Editor of the International Association for Jazz Education *Jazz Education Journal*, Past President of the IAJE-IL, Board member of The Midwest Clinic, is author of *Cutting the Changes: Jazz Improvisation via Key Centers*, is Co-Editor/Contributing Author of *Teaching Jazz: A Course of Study*, and authored a chapter within *The Jazzer's Cookbook*. He serves as a Network Expert (for Improvisation Materials) for the Jazz Education Network. His articles and compositions have been widely published. He is also the subject of an extensive interview within *Bonanza: Insights and Wisdom from Professional Jazz Trombonists* (Advance Music). Visit his website at [www.garciamusic.com](http://www.garciamusic.com).

**Name:** Bethany Letiecq, PhD

**Title:** Associate Professor of Human Development and Family Science in the College of Education and Human Development at George Mason University

**Presentation Title:** CBPR: Funding Considerations to Promote Sustainability

**Short Bio:** Dr. Bethany Letiecq, Associate Professor of human development and family science at George Mason University, teaches courses on family relations and family law and social policy. Her community-based and action research focuses on the health and well-being of families marginalized by social, economic, and political forces. Most recently, she has worked in partnership with Mexican migrant families settling in new destinations to ameliorate poor mental health conditions and promote migrant justice. She is the past president of the Gallatin Valley Human Rights Task Force, co-founder and former Vice President of the Montana Immigrant Justice Alliance, and currently serves as the Family Policy section chair of the National Council on Family Relations. She has recently joined the faculty at Mason after a decade living in Montana and has a nearly five-year-old daughter named Betsy Lyn.

**Name:** Rosalie Corona, PhD

**Title:** Associate Professor of Department of Psychology

**Presentation Title:** Getting Recognition for CEEnR: Considerations for Promotion and Tenure

**Short Bio:** Dr. Corona's general area of research focuses on health promotion and risk reduction in minority communities, primarily Latino and African American. She uses a variety of methodologies including observational work, qualitative interviews and focus groups, and surveys. Her work follows the principles of community-based participatory research, and her community partners play integral roles in the research process including identification of problem area, grant writing, data collection, and dissemination of findings. She has also been involved in the development and evaluation of prevention programs aimed at increasing family communication to reduce health disparities. Her current projects focus on cancer prevention in adult women, adolescent relationships, and the intersection between adolescents' body image and sexual health. In prior work, she has also examined Latino health and relationships in an "emerging" Latino community.

**Name:** The Honorable Cynthia Newbille

**Title:** Councilwoman, Richmond City Council, East End 7<sup>th</sup> Voter District

**Presentation Title:** How Can Research Lead to Positive Change in the Community

**Short Bio:** Councilwoman Newbille was elected to the Richmond City Council as the Councilperson for the East End 7<sup>th</sup> District in a Special Election held on Nov. 3, 2009, to fulfill the remaining three years of the elected term for that District left vacant by the departure of Councilwoman Delores L. McQuinn. Councilwoman Newbille was re-elected in Nov. 6, 2012, to a four-year term, which started on Jan. 2, 2013. Councilwoman Newbille has been directly connect to and serving the East End for many years. She was raised in Whitcomb Court and attended her neighborhood schools: Whitcomb Elementary, the then-Mosby Middle School, and Armstrong High School. Councilwoman Newbille earned her bachelor's degree in psychology/linguistics and a master's degree in psychology at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. She has served as the director of the Head Start Program at Charles Drew University in Compton, Ca., and as the Executive Director of the National Black Women's

Health Project in Atlanta, Ga. She moved back to Richmond and served as chief of staff to then-City Manager Calvin Jamison and managed the city's East District Initiative. She also served as the acting Executive Director of the United Way's Family Resource Center on 24<sup>th</sup> Street. She has had many examples of accomplishments in the East End, which includes launching the Healthy U 7<sup>th</sup> District Health and Wellness Initiative to promote community health and wellness and improve the quality of life not only for residents of Richmond's 7<sup>th</sup> District, but through replication, for all citizens through the city of Richmond.

**Name:** James Parish Jr.

**Title:** Director of Foundation Relations at VCU

**Presentation Title:** Funding Community-Identified Research Priorities

**Short Bio:** James T. Parrish Jr. has more than 24 years of development experience in both higher education and the nonprofit sector, and he currently serves as the Director of Foundation Relations for VCU. James also serves as an adjunct VCU faculty member, occasionally teaching undergraduate classes in filmmaking and film history for the VCUarts Department of Photography and Film and the School of World Studies. In 1999, James co-founded the Richmond-based nonprofit James River Film Society, and he is currently leading an effort to establish the Bijou Film Center, an independent art house cinema and nonprofit film center, in the heart of Richmond's downtown arts and cultural district. James was a Professional Development Fellow during the 57<sup>th</sup> Robert Flaherty Film Seminar in 2011, was selected as one of *Style Weekly's* "Top 40 Under 40" in 2006, and received the Theresa Pollak Prize for Photography/Film in 2005. James earned a BA in Speech Communication from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

**Name:** Jessica Venable

**Title:** Grant and Research Analyst in the VCU Office of the Vice President for Research

**Presentation Title:** Funding Community-Identified Research Priorities

**Short Bio:** Jessica Venable provides support to individual faculty in developing competitive research projects, collaborations, and proposals for extramural funding from government and private sponsors. These duties include providing guidance and training to strengthen research development; providing grant search services and assistance analyzing grant opportunities; giving one-to-one grant writing assistance and editing; and analyzing the funding environment. She co-created and co-facilitates the NSF CAREER Academy, serves as Co-chair of the Grants and Gifts Committee of VCU's Council for Community Engagement, and has enhanced the Office of Research's training program, offering an average of 30 sessions per year in research development and grantsmanship. Prior to joining VCU in 2007, Jessica was a Program Officer at the National Alliance of State Science and Mathematics Coalitions. There, she was responsible for all stages of the organization's extramural funding process, from researching prospects to authoring grant proposals and final reports. She has also held similar positions in research development, grants administration, and sponsored programs management on both the funder's side and the grantee's side -- at The George Washington University, NASA Headquarters, and NASA Langley Research Center. Outside of her professional responsibilities, Jessica is a member of the STEM Advisory Committee at FrancisEmma, Inc. and participates actively in the National Organization of Research Development Professionals



Mentoring Program. Jessica holds degrees from Princeton University and The George Washington University. She is currently a doctoral candidate at VCU.

**Name:** Pamela Dillon, PharmD

**Title:** Research Liaison for the Research Incubator, VCU Center for Clinical and Translational Research, and Clinical Assistant Professor in the VCU School of Pharmacy

**Presentation Title:** Funding Community-Identified Research Priorities

**Short Bio:** Dr. Dillon received a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy and a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish *summa cum laude* from Butler University in 1992. She then earned her doctorate from the VCU School of Pharmacy in 1997. She started her career in the pharmaceutical industry at Pharmaceutical Research Associates, a contract research organization. Subsequently, she worked at Insmed Pharmaceuticals, INC Research, and most recently, Aderis Pharmaceuticals where she was the Director of Clinical Development. Dr. Dillon has more than 15 years of broad-based pharmaceutical industry experience in product development planning, clinical trials management, regulatory compliance, medical writing, therapeutic monitoring and data management. In 2007, Dr. Dillon joined VCU where she works to offer VCU's clinical and translational researchers access to core resources, networking opportunities, and research-related educational offerings. Dr. Dillon is also actively involved in substance abuse research at VCU, working with Dr. Dace Svikis and the Addiction and Women's Health: Advancing Research and Evaluation (AWHARE) group on research involving evaluation and intervention in people using addictive substances.

**Name:** Elaine Summerfield

**Title:** Vice President of Programs, The Community Foundation

**Presentation Title:** Funding Community-Identified Research Priorities

**Short Bio:** Elaine Summerfield joined The Community Foundation Serving Richmond and Central Virginia in 2005. In her role as Vice President of Programs, she supports the community grants program for the Foundation and its funding partners. Before joining TCF, Elaine served as a Program Officer for the Virginia Health Care Foundation, the job that brought her to Richmond. For over 20 years, Elaine has been dedicated to the nonprofit sector through roles such as administrative director of a community health center, grants management, and fundraising. In her desire to get others engaged to create positive change in the community, Elaine co-founded HandsOn Greater Richmond, where she continues to volunteer as its Advisory Council Chair. Elaine also hosts a weekly radio talk show on community issues on WRIR 97.3FM. Elaine is a 2008 graduate of Leadership Metro Richmond, and in 2007, she was named one of Style Weekly's Top 40 Under 40. Elaine earned a BA in English from University of Washington, and an MPA from Portland State University.

**Name:** Maghboeba Mosavel, PhD

**Title:** Associate Professor, VCU Department of Social and Behavioral Health

**Title of Talk:** Sustaining Partnerships for Research

**Short Bio:** Dr. Maghboeba Mosavel is an Associate Professor in the Department of Social and Behavioral Health at VCU. Dr. Mosavel is the academic co-pi in partnership with Rev. Dwala Ferrell of Pathways, on a grant funded by National Institutes of Health Disparities and Minority

Health to reduce obesity in the City of Petersburg using a CBPR approach. Maghboeba is a health disparities researcher who conducts community-engaged research. She also teaches a community-based participatory research (CBPR) course in the Department of Social and Behavioral Health. For the past two decades she has conducted research with low-income populations in the United States as well as in South Africa. Dr. Mosavel's major content areas of research are cancer prevention and chronic illness prevention. Dr. Mosavel has used a variety of innovative community-engaged research methods, including theater arts, graphic facilitation, and photovoice. Her research strategies include building capacity for community-engaged research with laypersons in communities with major health disparities. Her community-engaged research also focuses on exploring the ethical issues associated with building community research capacity especially as it relates to community research workers. Maghboeba is also VCU's Chief Liaison with the University of KwaZulu Natal in Durban.

**Name:** Dwala Ferrell, MSW

**Short Bio:** Rev. Dwala Ferrell is the CEO of Pathways, a faith-based community development corporation located in Petersburg, Virginia. She is the co-pi on the Wellness Engagement Project funded by the National Institutes of Minority Health and Health Disparities. Rev. Ferrell founded Pathways Free Specialty Clinic offering services in cardiology, pulmonology, sleep disorders, women's breast health, hepatitis, and rheumatology, providing over 1400 service visits annually by an all-volunteer medical team. The genesis of Pathways was based on the principles of community need and community engaged principles. Rev. Ferrell developed a diverse neighborhood team that spent 18 months in research and planning using an asset-based community development model. That process was revisited 15 years later under her direction, and involved over 500 residents and area stakeholders in the production of a Quality of Life Plan for the community. After 19 years in Petersburg, Rev. Ferrell brings a wealth of knowledge about the city, its culture, assets, challenges, and political structures. She has strong connections to the government, non-profits, area businesses, and the faith community, and she has demonstrated an ability to mobilize at the grassroots level building leadership and offering opportunities for transformation of both individuals and the community.