

THE CROSSING BRIDGES SUMMIT DECEMBER 10, 2020

**Socioeconomic and Environmental
Perspectives on Black Women's Health**



PennState
Greater Allegheny

Message from Jacqueline Edmondson Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer

We are starting our fourth year of the Crossing Bridges Summit. The purpose has always been for our campus to be a catalyst for change as we work to bridge racial divides in the Mon Valley.

Our events in the year ahead are particularly timely as we take up questions about Black women's health that were raised in the Pittsburgh Inequality report issued by researchers at the University of Pittsburgh last fall. There's a heightened awareness in our communities about racism and inequity that provides an important context and urgency to our work.



We look forward to engaging our campus and community partners in courageous conversations as we determine actions that will bring positive changes in the region.

Crossing Bridges Pillars

Speaker Series: The Speaker Series brings prominent figures to campus, to offer different perspectives on questions of race and racism in the United States and the Mon Valley.

Summit Talks: Summit Talks occur after each speaker. Faculty, staff, students and community members join discussion leaders to consider each speaker's major points. Participants identify actionable items Greater Allegheny will pursue as it works to be an agent for positive change.

Unity Talks: These student-led campus-based discussions focus on topics that emerge from student dialogue about race and racism. Unity Talks engage students, faculty, and staff in honest dialogue about issues that concern students.

Visiting Scholar: The Visiting Scholar Series brings intellectuals, artists, activists and others to campus for a yearlong engagement to include teaching, community outreach, research, and/or creative performance. Dr. Tom Poole, a civil rights scholar with extensive work in educational equity is the current Visiting Scholar.

Task Force on Racial Equity and Justice: Our Task Force on Racial Equity and Justice is responsible for examining curriculum and programming and making recommendations to ensure that all members of the campus community develop an understanding of racial justice, racism, and its impact on society.

Event Agenda

Welcome from Dr. Jacqueline Edmondson
Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer

Student Spoken Word Reading
Ebonie Slade

Moderator Introduction
Johnathan White, Ph.D.

Panel Discussion

Germaine Gooden-Patterson Jim Kelly, Tammy Thompson, and Dannai Wilson

Live Question & Answer Session

Submit your answers via watch.psu.edu/crossingbridges

Closing

Featuring



Germaine Gooden-Patterson - Panelist

Community Health Worker, Women for a Healthy Environment

Germaine Gooden-Patterson joined the non-profit Women for a Healthy Environment (WHE) as a Community Health Worker in December 2019. The mission of WHE is to educate and empower community members about environmental risk so that they can make healthy choices and advocate for change. The work is centered on protecting children and their families from harmful exposures in the environment and creating healthy places for them to live, learn, and play. Gooden-Patterson's Environmental Justice work in the Mon Valley engages her with many collaboratives including VCAN (Valley Clean Air Now). VCAN is a local grassroots organization whose mission is to fight for Mon Valley residents who continue to suffer from severe health, economic, climate and environmental injustice. She is sole proprietor of Wellness Withn, offering selfcare services and products and the mother of three beautiful children ages 20, 17, and 15.



Jim Kelly - Panelist

Deputy Director, Bureau of Environmental Health, Allegheny County Health Dept.

Jim Kelly is Deputy Director, Bureau of Environmental Health at the Allegheny County Health Department. The bureau is comprised of Air Quality, Food Safety, Housing & Community Environment and the Water Pollution Control and Solid Waste Management programs. Prior to joining the Allegheny County Health Department in June 2014, Kelly spent 22 years with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division, Air Protection Branch, including 11 years as the state's air quality planner. Kelly earned a Bachelors of Science in Mechanical Engineering from West Virginia University Institute of Technology and a Masters of Science in Environmental Public Policy from Georgia Institute of Technology.



Tammy Thompson - Panelist

Poverty Expert and Executive Producer of Circles of Greater Pittsburgh

Tammy Thompson is an internationally recognized Poverty Expert and Executive Producer of Circles of Greater Pittsburgh where she has developed multiple wealth building initiatives including Catapult: Startup to Storefront and the Gallery on Penn, a retail incubator program. During Thompson's life, she has experienced homelessness, loss, and countless setbacks, but has turned the tragedies into triumphs and uses her background to grow, educate, and inspire others. Through her Social Justice Media company, T3 Media, she served as executive producer of We Wear the Mask, a documentary released in 2017, highlighting the stigma associated with women in poverty. Her life's work has been featured in The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and other publications. Thompson is a mother of five and a grandmother of 19. She resides in Pittsburgh and is raising her granddaughter.



Dannai Wilson - Panelist

Program Manager of Maternal and Child Health, Allegheny County Health Dept.

Dannai Wilson is Program Manager of Maternal and Child Health at the Allegheny County Health Department. Wilson has served Southwestern Pennsylvania in the areas of business, social services, and public health for more than twenty years. At the Health Department, she oversees several initiatives designed to improve health and well-being and eliminate racial disparities in mortality for women and infants. Her department also exists to end racial disparities and uphold equity for all through effective collaboration with community members and organizations. Wilson is an alumna of Carlow University where she received a bachelor's degree in Communications and a master's degree in Organizational Leadership. Wilson is a military wife, mother, and grandmother. As a native Pittsburgher, she often imagines a Pittsburgh where all residents experience all the city has to offer.



Ebonie Slade - Student Speaker

Biobehavioral Health Major, Penn State Greater Allegheny

Ebonie Slade is graduating this month with a bachelor's degree in Biobehavioral Health. Recently, Ebonie was recognized by Penn State with the Jackson Lethbridge Tolerance Award for her outstanding efforts to enhance the understanding of diverse cultures and create a community where all individuals are accepted and valued equally.

Moderator



Johnathan White, Ph.D.

Lecturer in History, Penn State Greater Allegheny

Johnathan White was born in Norfolk, VA. He graduated from Clark Atlanta University with a B.A. in Political Science. He earned his M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh. His dissertation examined the plight of black jazz musicians in Pittsburgh before and after integration. He is interested in how collective memory helps re-imagine the past. He is a lecturer in History employed at Penn State Greater Allegheny since 2007. He has taught courses in history, African-American studies, black arts, and leadership development. He co-founded the Study of Hip-Hop Conference and the Stewart and Jones Scholar Leadership Program. His upcoming album, *Malcolm and Maya*, is an eclectic mix of poetry, hip-hop, and spoken word.

Upcoming Events

Summit Talks

Saturday, December 12, 2020 | 10:00 a.m.

Register here: greaterallegheny.psu.edu/register-summit-talks

Join us as we consider our panelists' points and identify actionable items to bring about change.

Speaker Series

Watch Live: watch.psu.edu/crossingbridges

Date and Time to be announced

Psychological influences on Black Women's Health

Panelists will focus on community and societal factors that influence black women's health.

Date and Time to be announced

Political influences on Black Women's Health

Panelists will focus on political and policy factors that influence black women's health.

Thank You

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