

THE CROSSING BRIDGES SUMMIT OCTOBER 15, 2020

Examining 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
Ke'ira Williams

Moderator Introduction
Johnathan White

Panel Discussion
Jessica Brooks, Liz Miller, Jamila Pleas and Jada Shirrel

Live Question & Answer Session
Submit your answers via watch.psu.edu/crossingbridges

Closing

Featuring



Jessica Brooks, MPM, PHR - Panelist

CEO and Executive Director, Pittsburgh Business Group On Health

Jessica Brooks is the Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director of the Pittsburgh Business Group on Health, where she is leading the effort to redefine and advance the discussion around health care value, access and quality on behalf of employers. A graduate of Penn State and Carnegie Mellon University, she serves on the board of governors for the Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative, the Health Innovation in Pennsylvania Price and Quality Transparency Work Group, as well as the All-Payer Claims Database Subcommittee for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Brooks has contributed to numerous news stories, opinion editorial pieces, and has appeared on National Public Radio, and in national health care and benefits publications.



Liz Miller, M.D., Ph.D. - Panelist

University of Pittsburgh

Dr. Elizabeth Miller is the Co-Director of a broad child and adolescent health research initiative titled "The Pittsburgh Study", the largest stakeholder-engaged, community-partnered longitudinal intervention study in the U.S. to ensure that children and youth are healthy, thriving, and meeting their academic goals. She is Professor in Pediatrics, Public Health, and Clinical and Translational Science at the University of Pittsburgh and Director of the Division of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine, UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. Miller is one of the authors of the white paper "Pittsburgh's Inequality Across Gender and Race", published in 2019. It is this report that inspired The Crossing Bridges Summit focus for 2020 - 2021.



Jamila Pleas, RN - Panelist

Founder, Her Birth Right

Jamila Pleas, RN is a registered nurse who has blossomed into a maternal health advocate specializing in childbirth education, positive birth outcomes, labor support, research and policy implementation. She has worked at some of the world's top leading health care systems such as West Suburban Hospital, Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Holy Cross Health, and the University of Chicago. She recently was awarded the Abstract of Excellence Award for her contributing work on Systemic Treatment and Management of Postpartum Hypertension at the Illinois Perinatal Quality Collaborative. She was also awarded the Coin of Excellence by the President and CEO of Holy Cross Health for her commitment to providing quality care. She is the founder of Her Birth Right, a national nursing initiative that is actively working to bridge the gap in maternal health disparities for women of color.

Joining the three panelists above will be Jada Shirrel, CEO Healthy Start.



Ke'ira Williams

Biobehavioral Health Major, Penn State Greater Allegheny

Ke'ira Williams is a student at Penn State Greater Allegheny studying BioBehavioral Health and Psychology. As the Psychology club president, Ke'ira has worked to raise mental health awareness. She is active in several other campus clubs including the Book Club, Black Student Union and Health Science Club. Ke'ira plans to become a psychiatrist, creating a comfortable and safe experience for her patients by providing them with the understanding, patience and care they deserve. In her spare time, she enjoys drawing and writing and reading poetry.

Moderator



Johnathan White

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. from the University of Pittsburgh, in modern U.S. and African-American history. His dissertation examines 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.

Thank You

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Upcoming Events

Summit Talks

Saturday, October 17, 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

Thursday, December 10, 2020 | 3:00 p.m. ET

Socioeconomic & Environmental perspectives on Black women's health

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

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