

---

# COMMUNITY ENGAGED RESEARCH TRAINING FOR RESEARCHERS: SHARING EXPERIENCES AND BEST PRACTICES

STEPHANIA MILLER-HUGHES, PHD, MS, MSCI  
PROFESSOR, MEHARRY MEDICAL COLLEGE  
TWITTER: @DRMILLERHUGHES



# BREAKOUT OBJECTIVE

- Highlight and discuss:
  - attendees' experiences with community engaged research training
  - attendees' best practices for implementing community engaged research training

MEHARRY-  
VANDERBILT  
COMMUNITY-  
ENGAGED  
RESEARCH CORE  
  
(MV-CERC)

- Established 2007, Vanderbilt Institute for Clinical and Translational Research
- Roles: Associate Director, Researcher and Community Training, Co-leader
- Researcher Training
  - Scholars Program
  - Community-engaged Research Post-doctoral Fellow
  - Researcher Training Curriculum

# MV-CERC

## SCHOLARS PROGRAM (1 YEAR)

- Support trainees in establishing partnerships with community-based organizations and conduct community engaged research projects together.
- Application requirements
  - Meharry or Vanderbilt professional or graduate student
  - Meharry or Vanderbilt faculty mentor
  - Community-based organization
  - Research proposal – focused on community-based organization work
  - Letters from mentor and community-based organization
- Scholar funding - project and educational development.
- Community partner stipend – time and collaboration
- 2014 inception; 9 cohorts to date

MV-CERC

SCHOLARS  
PROGRAM

2021-2022

- Vanderbilt PhD Student | Project: How Black Doulas Navigate and Negotiate Authority in the Clinical Setting with Homeland Heart Birth & Wellness Collective
- Vanderbilt PhD Student | Project: Organizing and Engaging Black Low-Wage Workers to Protect Workers' Rights and Conditions with Workers' Dignity
- Meharry Dental Student | Project: Impact of Lifestyle Changes on Men's Health, Sexual Medicine, and Chronic Disease Management with Gamma Phi, Inc.

2022-2023

- Meharry Medical Fellow | Project: Composite Biometric Health Screenings in the Latino Faith-Based Community with Congregational Health and Education Network (CHEN)
- Vanderbilt PhD Student | Project: Building Community in a Changing Northeast Nashville Neighborhood through Arts, Gardening, and Political Solidarity and Action around Place-Keeping with Brooklyn Heights Community Garden

# MV-CERC

## *POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOW (2-3 YEARS)*

- Support trainees in increasing skills in conducting community engaged research and engaging in activities that foster research independence.
- Meharry employment application
- Formal mentoring team; Meharry or Vanderbilt primary mentor
- Lead and contribute to faculty community-engaged research projects
- Funding – full salary support, travel, research funding
- 2013 inception; 5 fellows to date

MV-CERC

COMMUNITY-  
ENGAGED  
RESEARCH  
TRAINING  
CURRICULUM

**First Training Cohort Sessions: 2016**

Engaging the Community in Research: The Mystery Revealed

Ethics and Community Engaged Research

Implementation Science and Obesity Prevention

Evaluating Community Partnerships

Nashville Neighborhoods 101

*Additional training cohorts*

**Prep for Addition of Cultural Humility Training Session - 2019**

MEHARRY<sup>®</sup>  
MEDICAL COLLEGE

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY  
MEDICAL CENTER

**Cultural Humility:**  
Exploring culture, race, power and privilege in our lives  
and work places

MV-CERC

COMMUNITY-  
ENGAGED  
RESEARCH  
TRAINING  
CURRICULUM

Recent Training Cohort Sessions : 2020-Present

Community Engagement and Ethics

***Cultural Humility***

***Evaluating Community Partnerships***

***Overview of Community Engaged Research***

***Building Sustainable Partnerships***

***Dissemination***

***Nashville Neighborhoods 101***



# MEHARRY COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CORE

- Established 2017, Research Centers in Minority Institutions
- Role: Director
- Researcher Training
  - Community-engaged Research Post-doctoral Fellow
  - Researcher Training Sessions
  - Research Design Guidelines

# MEHARRY COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CORE

## *POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOW (2-3 YEARS)*

- Support trainees in increasing skills in conducting community engaged research and engaging in activities that foster research independence.
- Meharry employment application
- Formal mentoring team; Meharry or Vanderbilt primary mentor
- Lead and contribute to faculty community-engaged research projects
- Funding – full salary support, travel, research funding
- 2017 inception; One fellow to date

# MEHARRY COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CORE

## RESEARCHER TRAINING

› [Transl Behav Med. 2021 Jul 29;11\(7\):1411-1419. doi: 10.1093/tbm/ibab023.](#)

## Training researchers in dissemination of study results to research participants and communities

Jennifer Cunningham-Erves<sup>1</sup>, Elizabeth Stewart<sup>2</sup>, Jillian Duke<sup>2</sup>, Sylvie A Akohoue<sup>3</sup>, Nicole Rowen<sup>4</sup>, Omaran Lee<sup>5</sup>, Stephania T Miller<sup>2</sup>

**Recruitment and Retention of  
Minority and Underserved  
Populations in Research Studies**

RECRUITMENT PLAN GUIDE

MEHARRY COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CORE

MEHARRY  
COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT  
CORE

*RESEARCHER  
TRAINING*

**Commonly used slide/point in training resources**

Community-engaged research

≠

Recruitment

*but it can enhance it*

# BEST PRACTICES

- Target researchers at different training levels
- Provide diverse training platforms
- Provide CME/RCR credits or certificates
- Integrate training into existing curricula/training programs
- Evaluate and update training as needed

QUESTIONS?

OTHER  
EXPERIENCES &  
BEST  
PRACTICES?

CONTACT:

SMILLER@MMC.EDU