



## **President's Community Engagement Awards**

October 30, 2020

# 2020 President's Community Engagement Awards

The President's Community Engagement Award recognizes the exemplary community-academic partnership, community engaged research, and community outreach activities of faculty, staff, students, and community partners of the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW). Since 2015, the award has been sponsored by the President's Office and administered by the Office of the Associate Provost and Senior Associate Dean for Community Engagement. We are grateful for the generosity and support of MCW president and CEO John R. Raymond, Sr., MD, and his leadership and recognition of those who carry out the valuable work of the Community Engagement mission.

## Community Partner

**Brett Fuller, MAE**

Curriculum Specialist, Department of Wellness and Prevention,  
Milwaukee Public Schools

## MCW Student

**Bisola-Sarah Omoba, MD**

MCW Medical Student Class of 2020

## MCW Staff

**Jermaine Murry, MS**

Community Program Coordinator,  
MCW Cancer Center

**Jennifer Ovide, RN, BSN**

Medicine Clinical Coordinator,  
Ascension All Saints Family Health Center (FHC)

## MCW Faculty

**Michael Levas, MD, MS**

Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics,  
Division of Emergency Medicine

**Staci Young, PhD**

Associate Professor, Department of Family and Community Medicine,  
Director of the Center for Healthy Communities and Research

# 2020 PRESIDENT'S COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMUNITY AWARDEE

## Brett Fuller, MAE

Curriculum Specialist, Department of  
Wellness and Prevention, Milwaukee  
Public Schools

*“Not only does Brett support community partnerships but does so to improve the health of the community. He calls on his partners for their knowledge and experience and they call on him for his in return. His primary role is to support physical education, but his passions run much deeper to support the health of all children.”*

*– David Nelson, PhD, Associate Professor,  
Family and Community Medicine, MCW*



Brett Fuller is the Curriculum Specialist for Health and Physical Education within Milwaukee Public Schools. In his over two-decade career, Brett's philosophy has centered upon the ideal of supporting students be healthy for a lifetime. He has presented and published locally, at the state level and nationally on topics ranging from bullying in physical education to sex education, equity, inclusion, and diversity. Brett served on the Wisconsin Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Health, Milwaukee County Substance Abuse Coalition, and the Milwaukee Teen Pregnancy Prevention Oversight Committee.

He is a past member of the Let's Move Milwaukee Task Force, the Milwaukee Alliance for Sexual Health, and the Milwaukee Community Assessment Committee, a past board member of Fight Asthma Milwaukee Allies, and a current Board member of the Metro Milwaukee American Heart Association. Brett is a past president of Wisconsin Health and Physical Education, and current SHAPE America President.



# 2020 PRESIDENT'S COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STUDENT AWARDEE

## Bisola-Sarah Omoba, MD

MCW Medical Student Class of 2020

**“Bisola has a natural curiosity and genuine love for humanity that lends nicely to her propensity to help others by creating realistic solutions. During her short time at MCW, Bisola has laid the groundwork for sustainable programs that serve underrepresented communities as well as underrepresented minority (URM) students.”**

**– Cheryl Crawford, Program Manager,  
Academic Support and Enrichment**



Bisola Omoba is a lively, service-oriented Nigerian-American medical school graduate at MCW. Over the course of four years, Bisola has been ubiquitously active in the African American community. One of her proudest accomplishments is her former role as Community Engagement Liaison for the Student National Medical Association (SNMA) in which she launched the initiative in early 2018, “Bridging the Gap: Providing Underrepresented Undergraduates with the Tools for Success.” This program provides students with tools and tips for successfully applying to medical school. Since its launch, SNMA leaders have continued to enhance the program, resources, and outreach provided to URM undergraduate students.

Upon graduation, Bisola hopes to complete her Family Medicine residency at MCW, to continue her commitment towards advancing diversity in medicine through medical education outreach. She wants to do her part in overcoming the barriers in the realm of diversity and inclusion in medicine.

# 2020 PRESIDENT'S COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STAFF AWARDEE

## Jermaine Murry, MS

Community Program Coordinator,  
MCW Cancer Center

**“He understands the objectives of his role and department, but early on incorporated relationship-building in the community. Any given day you can find Jermaine at the barbershop, the local grocery store, or even at church discussing the football game...but then following up with the question...when was the last time you were screened?”**

**- Venus M. Coates, Department Administrator,  
Robert D. and Patricia E. Kern Institute for the  
Transformation of Medical Education**



Jermaine joined the MCW Cancer Center in 2017 as a Community Program Coordinator. Originally from Milwaukee, WI, he earned his Bachelor of Business Administration in Human Resources at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He also completed his Master of Science in Human Resources Management and Master of Science in Sports Management at Cardinal Stritch University. Jermaine primarily works with the Cancer Center Community Outreach and Engagement team. This effort provides outreach, education, and research opportunities to community partners.

Additionally, Jermaine provides support to the MCW Cancer Center Community Advisory Board. Collaborating with community partners in the Southeast Wisconsin is an essential part of his role. As such, he has coordinated several highly visible community projects including: Pin-A-Brother/Pin-A-Sister at African American churches in Milwaukee, and the annual Prostate Health Education Symposium, which has provided over 100 men with free prostate cancer screenings.

# 2020 PRESIDENT'S COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STAFF AWARDEE

## Jennifer Ovide, RN, BSN

Medicine Clinical Coordinator,  
Ascension All Saints Family Health  
Center (FHC)

**“Nurse Jenny is deeply committed to patient care and community engagement. She has touched the lives of many patients and community members in the area surrounding the FHC. More importantly, though, she has taken so many of the family medicine residents and MCW medical students along on that journey. The experiences that they have during this time is important for the growth of these young learners and translates into these physicians providing outreach and community-centered care to their patients in the future.”**

***- Joseph W. Gravel Jr., MD, FAAFP, Professor and  
Chair, Family and Community Medicine, MCW***

“Nurse Jenny,” as she’s affectionately known, graduated from Marquette in 1979. She has spent 20 years at All Saints Family Health Center on Milwaukee’s north-side, combining creativity, health education and community engagement. She created programs for family medicine residents, medical students, patients, and community members. The FAN club, teaches third graders “Fitness And Nutrition.” Students take a field trip to plant the clinic garden and enjoy a celebratory salsa party. The clinic hosts a garden, a collaborative farm with Mount Calvary, workout track, and newly constructed greenhouse. Residents and medical students accompany Nurse Jenny to schools for “Ask the Dr.” and on home visits. She leads aerobic and yoga classes, followed by healthy cooking/tasting in the teaching kitchen. Events like “High Tea” where people dress in their Sunday best, make the clinic a special part of the community. Nurse Jenny sums it up, “I have the best job in the world.”



# 2020 PRESIDENT'S COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FACULTY AWARDEE

## Michael Levas, MD, MS

Associate Professor, Department of  
Pediatrics, Division of Emergency Medicine

**“Through family events and summer camp, Mike is ever-present. Whether he is helping Project Ujima youth build boats or working with faculty and students from University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee’s Community Arts program, Mike is all in! His advocacy is contagious amongst our faculty, staff and students.”**

***- Marlene Melzer-Lange, MD,  
Professor, Pediatrics, MCW***



Dr. Levas has been with the Medical College of Wisconsin’s Section of Pediatric Emergency Medicine since 2011. He is a product of the south side of Milwaukee and completed his undergraduate work at Saint Norbert College in De Pere, WI. Following graduation from the Medical College of Wisconsin, he completed his pediatric residency and emergency medicine fellowship training in Kansas City, MO. He completed his Masters in Clinical and Translational Science at the Medical College of Wisconsin.

Since joining the faculty at the Medical College, Dr Levas has been intimately involved with health care disparities, youth violence, and injury prevention policy and research. He is the assistant medical director of Project Ujima, one of the premier hospital-based youth violence prevention/intervention programs in the United States. He currently serves as Vice Chair of Diversity in the Department of Pediatrics and as Deputy Director of the Comprehensive Injury Center.

# 2020 PRESIDENT'S COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FACULTY AWARDEE

## Staci Young, PhD

Associate Professor, Department of  
Family and Community Medicine

Director, Center for Healthy Communities  
and Research

**“Dr. Young has a long and distinguished record of community-engaged health promotion and research with diverse vulnerable communities. As a sociologist, her work demonstrates her deep commitment to examining structural barriers and conditions that contribute to health disparities.”**

***- Linda N. Meurer, MD, MPH, Professor and  
Vice Chair, Family and Community Medicine***



Staci Young, PhD, associate professor of family and community medicine, is the director of the Center for Healthy Communities and Research division. She is from Milwaukee and earned her bachelor's degree in economics from Marquette University, and her master's and doctorate in urban studies from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She has over 20 years of experience in community engaged research, evaluation, and education.

Her research focus areas include advocacy for vulnerable patients and populations, the organization of work among health professionals in traditional and community-based clinical settings, and the relationship between the urban environment, acute and chronic life stressors, and health status. She has been the Principal Investigator for multiple research projects with longstanding local and statewide partners addressing harm reduction and women's exposure to violence, the public and community health workforce, and the role of safety net clinics in ensuring access to health care for the uninsured.



## The Office of the Associate Provost & Senior Associate Dean for Community Engagement

The Office of the Associate Provost and Senior Associate Dean for Community Engagement provides a variety of resources to both MCW and community partners in support of MCW's Community Engagement Mission to advance the art and science of community engagement.

Community engagement is the collaboration between academic institutions and their larger communities for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources in a context of partnership and reciprocity (Ahmed & Palermo, 2010). MCW's mission is to improve the health of Wisconsin's communities.

### Community Engagement Core

Housed under the Office of Community Engagement, the Community Engagement Core seeks to grow the network of community-engaged research advocates at MCW and throughout the community. The Core facilitates relationships among community and academic partners, encouraging the growth of mutually beneficial partnerships that have the potential to impact health in Wisconsin.

The Community Engagement Core is a central resource that catalyzes, connects, and supports community engagement in research for the mutual benefit of Wisconsin's communities, community partners, and MCW. Our Core implements and supports community engaged research (CEnR); immersion; training and outreach; and mentoring.



The Medical College of Wisconsin has been recognized by the Carnegie Foundation as a  
Community Engaged Institution since January 2015.