President’s Community Engagement Award

In recognition of your outstanding and exemplary contribution to the advancement of Community Engagement

2022
The Office of Community Engagement: Building Healthier Communities

The Medical College of Wisconsin’s community engagement mission focuses on building productive partnerships with communities in Wisconsin and beyond. Through these partnerships and the relationships that sustain them, MCW and its community collaborators work together to make a greater impact on addressing Wisconsin’s critical health needs.

The MCW Office of Community Engagement (OCE) has been widely recognized with honors and awards, most recently in 2020 with the Campus Compact Richard Guarasci Award for Institutional Transformation, noting that MCW demonstrates a deep strategic commitment to community and is embracing its responsibility as a place-based institution to address diverse health needs throughout Wisconsin.

The OCE provides a broad range of programs, services, and tools to further develop MCW’s capacity to partner with communities. As a primary resource and catalyst for community engagement projects for MCW and community partners, the OCE effectively impacts how MCW addresses health equity and social disparities across Wisconsin.

Land Acknowledgment

The Office of Community Engagement acknowledges the indigenous people who are past and present stewards of the land on which we pursue our just cause of a healthy community for everyone.

2022 President’s Community Engagement Award

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 MCW. Since 2015, the award has been sponsored by the President’s Office and administered by the OCE. 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.

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

Joy Tapper, MPA
Executive Director
Milwaukee Health Care Partnership

Lorraine Lathen
Executive Director
Jump at the Sun Consultants, LLC

Aziz Abdullah
Co-Founder
INPOWER

Nick Tomaro
Emergency Preparedness
Environmental Health Director
City of Milwaukee Health Department

Marcus Austin
Field Coordinator
Community Mobilization Project

2020 & 2021 Boards of Directors
Saturday Clinic for the Uninsured
MCW Student Program

MCW Student

Raquel Valdes
Medical Student Class of 2024

MCW Staff

Kelsey Heindel
Program Coordinator
Office of Community Engagement

Madeline Winn, PA-C, MPAS
Pediatrics Department, Emergency Medicine
Children’s Wisconsin

MCW Faculty

Piero Antuono, MD
Professor
Department of Neurology

Kirsten Beyer, PhD, MPH, MS
Associate Professor
Department of Epidemiology & Social Sciences
Institute for Health & Equity
2022 PRESIDENT’S COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PRESENTERS

Staci Young, PhD

Dr. Staci Young is the interim Senior Associate Dean for Community Engagement at MCW and interim Director of the Office of Community Engagement. She is also Associate Professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine and the Director of the Center for Healthy Communities and Research. She teaches graduate courses and mentors students for MCW’s PhD program in Public and Community Health and serves as a Faculty Advisor for the student-run Saturday Clinic for the Uninsured. As a medical sociologist, her work demonstrates a deep commitment to examining structural barriers and conditions that contribute to health disparities.

John R. Raymond, Sr., MD

John R. Raymond, Sr., MD, the Medical College of Wisconsin’s President and CEO, assumed the position as MCW’s sixth President on July 1, 2010. As MCW’s President and CEO, Dr. Raymond leads Wisconsin’s only private medical school with an operating budget of more than $1.2 billion. A practicing nephrologist who plays active roles in clinical care, teaching and faculty mentorship, Dr. Raymond also is a medical researcher studying the basic mechanisms of kidney cell function. He has published more than 140 full-length manuscripts and earned nearly $40 million of grant funding over the course of his career.
MANY THANKS TO THE PRESIDENT’S COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AWARD 2022 COMMITTEE MEMBERS!

Allison DeVan, PhD
Sabina Diehr, MD
Lisa Dodson, MD
Mark Flower
Tifany Frazer, MPH
Brett Fuller, MAE
Kathy Kuhn
Michael Levas, MD, MS
John Meurer, MD, MBA
Sharon Neu Young

Thank you for your continued service!
Joy Tapper, MPA

Executive Director, Milwaukee Health Care Partnership

“As Chair of the MCW Consortium on Public and Community Health, Joy has enabled MCW to double down on its commitment to the communities we serve through direct investments, convening opportunities, and capacity building activities.”

– Jesse M. Ehrenfeld, MD, MPH, FASA, FAMIA, FCPP, Senior Associate Dean, Director, Professor
  MCW-Milwaukee

With over 30 years of experience in healthcare policy, planning, and administration, Joy Tapper serves as the Executive Director for the Milwaukee Health Care Partnership, a 15-year-old public/private consortium dedicated to improving health care for low income and underserved populations in Milwaukee County (www.mkehcp.org). Joy previously served as EVP and Chief Administrative Officer for the Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare system, where she had management responsibility for Milwaukee-based service lines and regional administrative and support functions, including planning, marketing & communications, community & government relations, fund development, mission services, and human resources. Joy has a Master’s in Public Administration from UW-Madison and a Bachelor of Arts from St. Olaf College. She serves on many civic and health committees in Milwaukee and across Wisconsin, as well as on the boards of the Wisconsin Primary Health Care Association and the MCW Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin endowment.
Lorraine Lathen

President & Founder, Jump at the Sun Consultants, LLC

“Lorraine brings extensive experience working with community members of neighborhoods with the highest social vulnerability in Wisconsin and has built deep trusted relationships. This program would not have been possible without her.”

– Mara Lord, MBA, Senior Vice President & Benjamin Weston, MD, MPH, FAEMS, Associate Professor, MCW-Milwaukee

Ms. Lathen has more than 20 years of experience designing, implementing, and evaluating health promotion and disease prevention programs. She is recognized as a national leader in minority health advocacy, community engagement and social marketing and has provided technical direction to USAID sponsored maternal and child health and HIV/AIDS prevention programs in Africa and Romania. Ms. Lathen is the founder and president of Jump at the Sun Consultants, LLC. (JATSC), a firm whose mission is to provide innovative and culturally relevant technical support to nonprofit, public health and private sectors working to improve the health and well-being of people living in disadvantaged communities. Ms. Lathen was named the recipient of the 2020 C. Everett Koop Unsung Heroes Award for her incredible work with the Wisconsin Tobacco Prevention and Control Program in addressing tobacco-related disparities among low-income and African American communities in Wisconsin. Her firm has been instrumental in the design and execution of a community-driven model to build COVID-19 vaccine confidence and uptake in marginalized communities. Ms. Lathen received an undergraduate degree in Liberal Arts from Marquette University and a graduate degree from American University.
2022 PRESIDENT’S COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

COMMUNITY PARTNER Awardee

Aziz Abdullah

Co-Founder, INPOWER

“Aziz and INPOWER team members have been essential to the Community-Led Mobilizer Program by expanding the Authentic Voices campaign to reflect people and voices from socially vulnerable neighborhoods in Milwaukee.”

– Mara Lord, MBA, Senior Vice President & Benjamin Weston, MD, MPH, FAEMS, Associate Professor, MCW-Milwaukee

Born and raised in Milwaukee, Aziz began his college career at Marquette University and during that time pursued a career in entrepreneurship. Aziz then began his career as the Vice President of TheInfluence.org, a national news and information organization devoted to elevating the work of organizations in the field of addiction and recovery. He then worked as a Digital Strategist at Urban Media, an organization that represents five newspapers and two radio stations in African American and Spanish-speaking cultures with an aim toward maintaining heritage in younger generations. Aziz then co-founded InPower, which provides strategies and technology tools to health care, social care, and education organizations. Aziz values family and community above all else. He credits being born to parents who were just 15 and 17 years old, for the unique blessing of having known all his grandparents and all of his great-grandmothers.
Nick Tomaro

Emergency Preparedness Environmental Health Director, Milwaukee Health Dept.

“Among his many roles as a public health leader, community organizer, and implementor on the front lines throughout the pandemic, Nick is applauded for stepping in as a collaborative partner on the Community-led Mobilization program.”

– Mara Lord, MBA, Senior Vice President & Benjamin Weston, MD, MPH, FAEMS, Associate Professor, MCW-Milwaukee

Nick Tomaro is part of a dedicated team of people at the Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) working in emergency preparedness and environmental health. With a background in veterinary medicine, public health, and environmental health sciences, Nick brings a One Health world view to the team’s work, which is a collaborative, multisectoral, and transdisciplinary approach to achieving optimal health outcomes recognizing the interconnection between people, animals, plants, and their shared environment. During the pandemic response, their team prioritized on-the-ground collaboration. Partnerships with organizations like Jump at the Sun and INPOWER, other community-based organizations, schools, faith-based institutions, shelters, governmental agencies, healthcare organizations, and workplaces throughout the city, helped MHD bring COVID-19 vaccinations, testing, and other services to priority ZIP codes through mobile clinics, neighborhood canvassing, and home visits. These critical relationships and the transformative experience of COVID-19 are foundational for the team’s work going forward to address health inequities in Milwaukee.
Marcus Austin
Field Coordinator, Community Mobilization Project

“Marcus showed his leadership capacity and became a field coordinator for the program, recruiting and training community members to knock on doors and connect with people with compassion and respect.”

– Mara Lord, MBA, Senior Vice President & Benjamin Weston, MD, MPH, FAEMS, Associate Professor, MCW-Milwaukee

As a resident of the 53206 community, Marcus Austin was determined to transcend the negativity of his past. He encountered many obstacles growing up. Marcus recalls the words of his grandmother who said, “A man always has something to prove.” Her words still resonate with him and are reflective in his commitment to his beloved community and to self-improvement. Marcus believes his life lessons bring an authentic approach to his mission of advancing health equity in Milwaukee’s underserved communities. As the Field Coordinator of the Community Mobilization Project, Marcus uses his skills, talents, and credibility to connect with the community that he holds dear to his heart.
The 2020 and 2021 Saturday Clinic for the Uninsured (SCU) Boards of Directors are a team of medical and pharmacy school students who have improved access to patient-centered, comprehensive, quality health care for under-resourced communities all while expanding the clinics’ ability to partner with the community to address health inequities on a broader scale.

Some of the ways this was accomplished is through the implementation of SCU’s Telehealth Program, further expansion of specialty care access for SCU’s patients, expansion of Social Determinants of Health screening and resources provided to patients, and a strong effort to connect patients to medications that are consistent with current standards of care. The Patient Family and Advisory Council was also developed to advance community engagement through patient collaboration.

This notable group of students have dedicated countless hours towards service in their community and have made a lasting impact on the clinic and community for years to come.
2022 President’s Community Engagement Community Program Award

2020 Board of Directors
Saturday Clinic for the Uninsured

Marie Balfour
Marvin Lu
Jesse Maguire
Gifty Marfowaa
Enrique Martinez

Spenser Marting
Sandra Okoro
Hannah Racicot
Alejandra Rodriguez

Edward Salem
Dan Sweeney
Emily Tolliver
Allison Whorton

“The SCU 2020-2021 leadership teams serve as exemplary role models for the medical community. They not only work hard in their studies but are also committed to expanding clinical services within SCU, reducing transmission of COVID-19, improving student education, eliminating racism, and increasing community engagement.”

– Rachele Harrison, PharmD, Assistant Professor & Jake Dyer, PharmD, Academic Fellow
Saturday Clinic for the Uninsured, MCW-Milwaukee
2022 President’s Community Engagement Community Program Award

2021 Board of Directors
Saturday Clinic for the Uninsured

“\textit{The combined efforts of the 2020 and 2021 SCU leadership teams have allowed for exponential growth of the clinic into the community allowing for establishment of equitable partnerships that will benefit our patients and volunteers for years to come.}”

– 2022 Board of Directors, Saturday Clinic for the Uninsured

Hari Anandarajah
Elizabeth Aughey
Delaney Cairns
Athena Dong
Tina Lam

Morgan Leissring
Ming Lin
Jeffrey Liu
Jennifer Livschitz

Gabby Marchese
Nina Punyamurthy
Tamara Schroeder
Emma Vallee
Raquel Valdes

Medical Student, Class of 2024,
MCW-Milwaukee

“Not only has Raquel made considerable contributions to improving the health and wellbeing of the greater Milwaukee community, but she has also been an integral part in enriching the MCW community.”

– Morgan Johnson, MPH, BA
Medical Student, Class of 2024
MCW-Milwaukee

Raquel Valdes is a second-year international medical student from Torreon, Coahuila, Mexico. Raquel has always been passionate about community service and advocacy, and at MCW she has been community service co-chair of the Latino Medical Student Association (LMSA) and Medical Students for Choice (MSFC). Raquel was also the 2021 organizer of MCW's Vulnerable Populations Symposium with the American Medical Women's Association. Within LMSA, she has been part of the community outreach project, “Venciendo la Pandemia con la Vacuna.” For this project, she helped secure funding to provide masks for the Southside community, and alongside LMSA members has helped spread information about the COVID-19 vaccine at local churches and other community events. She also organized and established outreach programs with St. Augustine High School and Bruce Guadalupe Middle School to increase exposure of medicine and the sciences for students in Milwaukee. Raquel's interests include women's health, migrant healthcare, reproductive rights and reducing health disparities.
Kelsey exemplifies daily the type of commitment and altruistic spirit this important award recognizes and is genuinely caring and willing to go to great lengths to help those within MCW and those in the community to advance our institutional mission of CE.”

– Christine Zeller, MA, Program Manager
MCW-Milwaukee

Kelsey Heindel was born and raised in Milwaukee and attended the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse for her degree in community health education. Kelsey has a passion for health promotion and wellness and uses her skills in program coordination to bring like-minded individuals together to support a healthy community. She is currently a Program Coordinator in the Office of Community Engagement at the Medical College of Wisconsin. Her work contributes to advancing the community engagement mission through a variety of community-academic initiatives, programs, and events. Throughout her career at MCW, she has been given the opportunity to work alongside community champions to promote areas of wellness, healthy eating, active living, and chronic disease prevention. Kelsey serves on the leadership team for Milwaukee County Organizations Promoting Prevention - this local coalition has laid the foundation for her work in this space and provided a chance to build relationships with the community.
Madeline Winn has been a Physician Assistant in the Emergency Department (ED) at Children's Wisconsin (CW) for 7 years. Observing health inequities firsthand in the ED motivated her to look for ways to address these disparities. Madeline partnered with the Daniel M. Soref Family Resource Center and started screening ED families for food insecurity. These screenings have led to amazing outcomes including financial and immigration assistance, and enrollment in WIC and other government programs. Due to the success of the program, Madeline is now helping clinics across CW implement their own screening. Outside of the ED, she created a partnership with Upstart Kitchen, a Milwaukee based nonprofit, which wanted to be involved with CW and help expand food insecurity efforts. Madeline used this partnership to start a meal program at two Milwaukee County CW primary care offices. Every month, 150 meals are distributed to families visiting their doctors.
Dr. Piero Antuono graduated from the University of Florence Medical School and after additional training in Neurology and Neuropsychiatry he joined the MCW faculty where he developed a comprehensive program for the dementias from basic research to clinics drug studies and a brain bank. He was the Medical Director of the Nun Study, looking at risk factors for Alzheimer's disease and has co-developed at MCW new fMRI techniques for the preclinical diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease. He is known internationally. Recently he has dedicated himself to the development of a community clinic for Latinos with dementia at United Community Center (UCC) in Milwaukee. With his staff, he developed a mobile memory loss clinic addressing the unmet needs of this population with culturally specific educational programs. In collaboration with the UCC, UW-Milwaukee, and the Alzheimer's Association, the clinic received funding from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services and UW-Madison.
Kirsten Beyer, PhD, MPH, MS

Associate Professor, Department of Epidemiology & Social Sciences, Institute for Health & Equity

“Dr. Beyer is an exemplar role model in how to build relationships, listen to partners, contribute her skillsets, and honor mutual respect and shared decision making - all attributes of the community engagement process.”

– Stephen W. Hargarten, MD, MPH, Associate Dean, Professor, MCW-Milwaukee

Dr. Kirsten Beyer is Associate Professor of Epidemiology & Social Sciences in the MCW Institute for Health & Equity. She is Director of the PhD Program in Public and Community Health, Co-Director of the Global Health Pathway for medical students, and Co-Director of the Geospatial, Epidemiology and Outcomes (GEO) shared resource of the MCW Cancer Center. Her work focuses on the intersection of health, place, and social justice, from a global health perspective. She seeks to understand root causes of health inequity and leverage community engagement to generate policy and practice changes, with a focus on cancer, cardiovascular disease, and mental health. In partnership with Milwaukee nonprofits, schools, and government agencies, she studies the impacts of redlining, greenspace, and climate change mitigation/adaptation strategies on health equity. In Africa, she partners with cancer registries, nonprofits, and researchers to study cervical and breast cancer disparities and implement systemic changes to reduce cancer burdens.
CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR Awardees!