



President's Community Engagement Awards

Alumni Center, MCW-Milwaukee

May 9, 2025

AGENDA

Lunch

11:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Bread House Catering

Mediterranean Cuisine

Opening Remarks

12:15 – 12:20 p.m.

John R. Raymond, Sr., MD

President and Chief Executive Officer

Medical College of Wisconsin

Presentation of Awards

12:20 – 1:25 p.m.

Staci Young, PhD

Senior Associate Dean for Community Engagement

Professor, Family and Community Medicine

Medical College of Wisconsin

Closing Remarks

1:25 – 1:30 p.m.

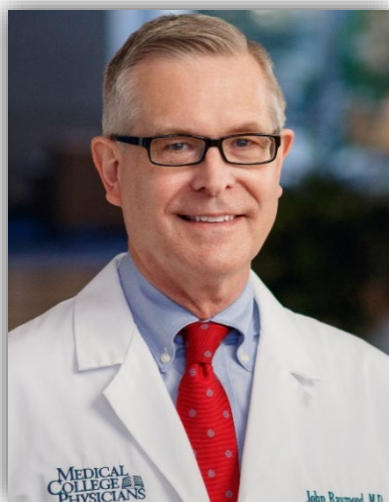
Staci Young, PhD

2025 PRESIDENT'S COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PRESENTERS



Staci Young, PhD

Dr. Staci Young is the Senior Associate Dean for Community Engagement and Director of the Office of Community Engagement at MCW. She is also a Professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine, Director of the Center for Healthy Communities and Research, the Inaugural Faculty Director for the ThriveOn Collaboration, and the Associate Director for Community Outreach and Engagement for the MCW Cancer Center. She actively teaches and mentors students, is a founding faculty member in the DrPH program, and serves as a research 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 \$1.6 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.

2025 PRESIDENT'S COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AWARDEES

Community Partners / Program

414LIFE

Community and hospital-based
violence intervention program

Lea S. Denny, MS, LPC, NCC, NMT, Dr. h.c.

CEO, Clinical Director & Founder
HIR Wellness Institute

MCW Student

Alenna Beroza, MS

Medical Student, Class of 2026
MCW-Milwaukee

MCW Staff

Courtney Jankowski, MPH

Program Manager
Institute for Health & Humanity
MCW-Milwaukee

AnaKaren Manriquez Prado, BA

IRB Coordinator II
Office of Research
MCW-Milwaukee

MCW Faculty

Sara A. Kohlbeck, PhD, MPH

Assistant Professor
Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Medicine
MCW-Milwaukee

Jessica Olson, PhD, MPH

Associate Professor
Institute for Health & Humanity
MCW-Milwaukee

2025 PRESIDENT'S COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMUNITY PROGRAM AWARD



Back left to right: David Sinclair, Outreach Supervisor; Terry O'Kelly, Violence Interrupter Supervisor; Corey Denton, Lead Violence Interrupter; Shante Grooms, Lead Outreach Worker; and Mark Briggs, Hospital Responder Supervisor. Front left to right: Dorian Tellis, Community Program Coordinator; Lynn Lewis, Program Director; Collette Anderson, Business Operations Coordinator

414LIFE

Community and hospital-based violence intervention program

"The transformative experiences that staff are afforded display a level of professional investment that demonstrates their commitment. The hospital response team and street outreach workers provide seamless care for persons impacted by gun violence. Milwaukee is better because of 414LIFE."

**– David J. Muhammad, Deputy Director
Milwaukee County Department of Health and Human Services**

414LIFE is a community and hospital-based violence intervention program. The program has two components developed on existing evidence-based models - the community component as an adaptation of the Cure Violence (CV) model selected to address community-based violence, and the hospital component as an adaptation of a hospital-based Violence Intervention Program (HVIP) chosen to prevent re-injury after a gunshot wound requiring hospital attention. 414LIFE team members are hired as "credible messengers" who have relevant life experiences, rapport, and/or knowledge to identify and work with individuals or groups who are at high risk for gun violence victimization or perpetuation. This work is centered on individuals and pre-identified priority neighborhoods with the highest rates of gun violence.

2025 PRESIDENT'S COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMUNITY PARTNER AWARDEE

Lea S. Denny, MS, LPC, NCC, NMT, Dr. h.c.

CEO, Clinical Director & Founder, Healing Intergenerational Roots
(HIR) Wellness Institute

“Lea is an outstanding community member and has worked tirelessly to advocate for mental health and foster healing, both physical and psychological, to the Indigenous and underserved community. Lea is the epitome of community engagement.”

**– Courtney Barry, PsyD, MS, Associate Professor,
Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine,
MCW-Milwaukee**



Lea S. Denny, of Hawaiian and Filipino heritage, is a licensed therapist and the founder, CEO, and Clinical Director of the Healing Intergenerational Roots (HIR) Wellness Institute. HIR is a women and survivor-led organization supporting survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, sex trafficking, intimate partner violence, and community violence. With over 20 years of experience in mental health, Lea has reimagined access to care for Indigenous and underserved communities. She developed over 20 therapeutic programs and frameworks, including the Community Activated Medicine™ Framework™ and CAMSite™ model to provide no-cost mental health services to over 6,500 individuals annually. An international keynote speaker and community researcher, she addresses the impacts of historical and intergenerational trauma. Lea is deeply committed to workforce development, having trained over 150 interns through her CAM™ Advanced Training Placement Clinic. In recognition of her contributions to community mental health and leadership, she was awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee this year.

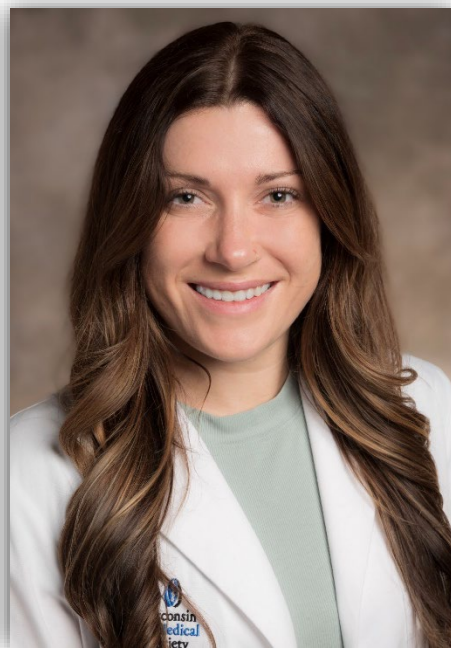
2025 PRESIDENT'S COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MCW STUDENT AWARDEE

Alenna Beroza, MS

Medical Student, Class of 2026

"Alenna's ability to respond to crises with both empathy and effective problem-solving is a testament to her character. She showed dedication, integrity, and compassion toward our organization, our staff, and the clients we serve. Her contributions have left an indelible mark on our work, and we are incredibly grateful for the time we had with her."

**– Kyomya Macklean Mary, Executive Director,
The Alliance of Women Advocating for Change**



Alenna Beroza earned her biomedical engineering degree at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a master's in mechanical engineering at Michigan Technological University through the Peace Corps Master's International Program. She taught STEM in rural Tanzania and introduced 3D printing in Western Kenya's health system. Her experiences ignited a passion for sexual and reproductive health, leading her to medical school. As a Dr. Elaine Kohler Global Health Scholar, she worked in Uganda on HPV and cervical cancer prevention for female sex workers. She later completed a dedicated research year in Uganda developing educational programming on this topic for community organizations. Beyond global health, Alenna co-developed a reproductive health simulation model to train resident physicians in abortion-related care, and she leads a nonprofit which provides sex education and raises funds for Wisconsin abortion funds. Committed to becoming a community-engaged physician, Alenna believes in uplifting vulnerable communities to build a healthier society.

2025 PRESIDENT'S COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MCW STAFF AWARDEE

Courtney Jankowski, MPH

Program Manager, Institute for Health & Humanity

“Courtney’s ability to seamlessly navigate between community and academic settings ensures that programs thrive and remain accessible to all families. Her passion for building deep-rooted, long-term partnerships sets her apart as a true leader in community engagement and health equity. Courtney consistently brings cultural understanding, patience, and dedication.”



– Kelly Moore Brands, River Revitalization Foundation/Ozaukee Washington Land Trust; Diana Yesi Perez, Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers; Jamie Ferschinger, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District

Courtney Jankowski, MPH, is a Program Manager in the Institute for Health and Humanity, where she leads community-engaged research initiatives in environmental health, racial and ethnic health disparities, social-emotional health, housing, and cancer. Courtney is skilled in project management, grant writing, quantitative and qualitative data collection, qualitative analysis, database management, and mentorship. From conceptualizing research ideas to implementing projects and disseminating findings, Courtney collaborates with community partners at every stage to ensure transparency, inclusivity, and responsible community research. Courtney works closely with organizations such as Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers, Milwaukee Public Schools, and Reflo, among others. Prior to joining MCW five years ago, she worked in direct service and advocacy for maternal and child health and nutrition. Her combined experience both at the community level and in academic research has deepened her commitment to community-led research as a powerful tool in addressing health inequities.

2025 PRESIDENT'S COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MCW STAFF AWARDEE

AnaKaren Manriquez Prado, BA

IRB Coordinator II, Office of Research

“AnaKaren has demonstrated outstanding leadership, advocacy, and commitment to improving Latino health and wellness. Her tireless efforts have played a pivotal role in supporting and advancing community-engaged research in underserved Latino populations.”

*– Shary Pérez, MPH, Community Health and Research
Program Coordinator, United Community Center*



Born in León, Guanajuato, Mexico, AnaKaren Manriquez Prado immigrated to the South Side of Milwaukee when she was six years old. Currently, she is an IRB Coordinator in the Office of Research, where she supports and advocates for ethical and intentional research. She also leads policy development for the engagement of non-English speakers, contributes to the creation of a shortened consent form, and leads a presentation series on the intersections of research, equity, and justice. Prior to her current role, Ana managed projects addressing cancer disparities and was selected to participate in a national cohort for cancer leadership research training funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Since 2019, Ana has promoted and supported research across Wisconsin as a member of the Milwaukee Latino Health Coalition (MLHC) and as co-chair of the Research Action Committee. Drawing on her extensive research and community experiences, Ana is dedicated to facilitating and advocating for inclusive, equitable, and just research practices at all levels and across communities.

2025 PRESIDENT'S COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MCW FACULTY AWARDEE

Sara A. Kohlbeck, PhD, MPH

Director, Division of Suicide Research & Healing, Comprehensive Injury Center;
Assistant Professor, Psychiatry & Behavioral Medicine

"Dr. Kohlbeck lives out collaboration, with the goals of decreasing deaths by suicide and increasing support for those who are suicide loss survivors. Our community is better, because of the tireless work Dr. Kohlbeck is doing."

– Andrea Nauer Waldschmidt, LPC, Psychiatric Crisis Services Coordinator and Vaynesia Kendrick, MS, Health Prevention Coordinator, Milwaukee County



Sara Kohlbeck, PhD, MPH, is the Director of the Division of Suicide Research and Healing in the Comprehensive Injury Center and an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine. Dr. Kohlbeck is also the Assistant Director of the PhD program in Public and Community Health at MCW. Dr. Kohlbeck received her PhD in Public and Community Health from MCW in 2022 and her Master of Public Health from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 2015. Her research interests focus on understanding suicide from a public health perspective, specifically on better understanding suicide among disproportionately affected populations, including farmers, veterans, and youth of color, to facilitate the development of appropriate prevention strategies. Dr. Kohlbeck is also engaged in community-based research with communities across Wisconsin who are implementing suicide prevention activities.

2025 PRESIDENT'S COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MCW FACULTY AWARDEE

Jessica Olson, PhD, MPH

Associate Professor, Division of
Community Health, Institute for Health &
Humanity

"I have witnessed firsthand her unwavering commitment to maternal and infant health equity. Dr. Olson is not only a trusted colleague but a fierce advocate and a steadfast partner in the fight for structural change in Black maternal and infant health outcomes."

– Dalvery Blackwell, Executive Director, African
American Breastfeeding Network



Jessica Olson, PhD, MPH, is an Associate Professor in the Division of Community Health who brings together academic, clinical, and community partners to advance equity in maternal health and cancer care. A long-time collaborator with the African American Breastfeeding Network (AABN), Dr. Olson played a key role in launching the WeRISE Doula Initiative, which, to date, has provided community-based doula support to more than 300 families in Southeastern Wisconsin. Her leadership extends across multiple NIH- and state-funded initiatives, including co-leadership of the TEAM Community Partnership Component of the ASCEND WI Initiative, alongside AABN Executive Director Dalvery Blackwell. She brings this commitment to her evaluation work within MCW, where she guides initiatives to build collaborative systems that support all members of the MCW community. Dr. Olson is dedicated to community-driven approaches fostering cross-sector partnerships and sustainable change, improving systems that affect the health and well-being of families across Wisconsin.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO
ALL OUR AWARDEES!**

THANKS TO THE PRESIDENT'S COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AWARD 2025 COMMITTEE MEMBERS!

Aziz Abdullah

Co-Founder, INPOWER

Allison DeVan, PhD, MA

Scientific Administrator, MCW-Milwaukee

Lisa Dodson, MD

Sentry Dean & Founding Dean, MCW-Central Wisconsin

Karen Dotson, MHSA

Program Director, MCW-Milwaukee

Yvonne Greer, DrPH, RD, CD

Owner, Y-Eat Right

Morgan Leissring, MD

Resident, MCW-Milwaukee

John Meurer, MD, MBA

Professor, MCW-Milwaukee

Tricia Monroe

Program Manager, MCW-Milwaukee

Jessica Olson, PhD, MPH

Associate Professor, MCW-Milwaukee

Darlene Russell

Director, Greater Milwaukee Foundation

Melinda Stolley, PhD

Professor, MCW-Milwaukee

Ana Maria Viteri

Medical Student, MCW-Milwaukee

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Mission

The Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) Office of Community Engagement (OCE) is dedicated to improving the health of communities in Wisconsin and beyond by advancing the art and science of community engagement and making MCW a national leader in improving the health of the public.

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.

Guiding Principles

- Develop reciprocal and mutually beneficial partnerships with communities of Wisconsin
- Use bi-directional dialogue to define and understand community and community engagement and identify program scope based on relevant community issues
- Recognize the importance of relationships in developing strong community-academic partnerships with equitable power and agreed-upon responsibilities that acknowledge the historical imbalance of power
- Build capacity within MCW and the community
- Effectively disseminate outcomes via diverse methods

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 or programs 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.

RECOGNITION

Carnegie Community Engagement Classification

In 2015, the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, which works to develop networks of ideas and institutions to advance teaching and learning, awarded the Community Engagement Classification to the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) in recognition of MCW's community engagement practices. The Carnegie Community Engagement Classification designation for MCW is an honor and a monumental achievement, as it recognizes the innumerable exemplary campus-wide programs and initiatives that are focused on excellence in community engagement and on serving the needs of our communities. MCW is now one of four medical schools nationwide that have received this honor.



Richard Guarasci Award for Institutional Transformation

The Richard Guarasci Award for Institutional Transformation recognizes institutions that have successfully implemented institution-wide efforts to address issues of public concern by aligning teaching, research, practice, and values in service of the common good. As a national leader in community engagement, the Medical College of Wisconsin was recognized for this award in 2020 for integrating engagement into research, education, and clinical care with the goal of advancing health policy and advocacy and addressing the social determinants of health. "Through initiatives like [Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin endowment] and its extended community-engaged research, the Medical College of Wisconsin demonstrates a deep strategic commitment to community, embracing its responsibility as a place-based institution to address diverse health needs throughout Wisconsin."

MCW COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DONATION DRIVE: BABY ITEMS

New or gently used items are accepted

Donations are being collected for Missionary Currie for Women and Children, a non-profit community organization that helps Milwaukee's homeless women and children.

May 5 - May 30

How to donate:

- **May 5– May 30:** Drop off your donations to one of the boxes located around the MCW-Milwaukee campus or ThriveOn King.
- **Anytime:** Purchase baby items directly from the Amazon Wishlist.



Examples:

- Baby Formulas
- Bottles
- Diapers
- Blankets
- Diaper Bags
- Onesies
- Wipes
- Socks



Missionary Currie
FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN inc.



Scan or tap the QR code to donate
via Amazon Wishlist



Medical College of Wisconsin
Community Engagement

Questions? Contact Jai Lor in the MCW Office of Community Engagement

jlor@mcw.edu | 414-955-4434

STAY CONNECTED

*Scan the QR code with your cell phone
camera to visit our website, email us, or stay
up to date on upcoming events and programs!*

