



University of  
**Pittsburgh**®

Center for Health Equity  
School of Public Health

## **2022-2023 Annual Report**

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**Prepare the scholars  
and leaders through  
rigorous education,  
training, and  
professional  
development  
programs**

## Appendix

# Message From Our Associate Directors

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The Center for Health Equity (CHE) is excited to mark the 29-year anniversary when the founding of its predecessor entity, The Center for Minority Health, set in motion a goal of developing research, teaching and service in support of improving the health and well-being of underrepresented populations. In its current form, CHE continues with this mission of elevating and uplifting health equity and justice. As we approach the 30th year in leading work in the health equity space, we are excited to advance our vision and mission while beginning the process of developing a new strategic plan. Our goal is to ensure that our priorities, goals and strategies align with the needs of our local community in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (PA) and Allegheny County, our region of Southwest PA, and the state while also synergizing with our national and global partners.

CHE has been successful in our three main pillars of research, service to community and education, which is summarized in this annual report (July 2022-June 2023 activities). Some highlights include Latino health engagement initiatives led by Dr. Documet, community and research engagement activities through our Community Research Advisory Board (CRAB), dissemination of our work through the Equity Edition Newsletter, and support of diverse scholars learning through the Health Justice Scholars Program and Health Equity Certificate Program. CHE Core Faculty were successful in receiving 37 federal, state, foundation and internal grants and contracts during the 2022-2023 fiscal year for over \$17mil in funding as PIs or Co-PIs. In addition, our team has contributed to local and state policy development as well as supporting more than 40 students, trainees and early career scholars in their trajectory.

# Message From Our Associate Directors

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We are proud of the remarkable accomplishments of the CHE team and partners over the past year and look forward to continued growth and development. As we plan for our work moving forward, we understand the need for developing initiatives, providing thought leadership and educating the future public health workforce on critical and emerging health equity and justice issues including but not limited to climate change, human-made disasters such as war, healthcare access, criminal justice reform, and preventable health conditions such as maternal mortality. However, the work and success of CHE would not be possible without our partners, collaborators and allies. We look forward to continued collaboration and building strategies for health and justice for our region, the state of PA, across the US and globally. If you are new to CHE, we welcome you to learn more through this annual report and our website: <https://www.sph.pitt.edu/research-practice/center-health-equity>. We also welcome you to join our listserv by contacting us at [healtheq@pitt.edu](mailto:healtheq@pitt.edu).

Warmly,

Dara D. Méndez and Tiffany Gary-Webb

Associate Directors

# About US

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The Center for Health Equity (CHE) seeks to understand and ultimately eliminate health inequities in under resourced, disadvantaged, and underserved communities and populations, particularly those in Western Pennsylvania. CHE addresses issues attributed to institutional racism, builds strategic partnerships across sectors and communities, acknowledges a social equity in all policies perspective, and the public sector's role in achieving health equity for its citizenry.

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**In order to accomplish our mission, the CHE is dedicated to three primary goals:**

**Goal 1:** Advance health equity through programming, research, scientific inquiry and innovation

**Goal 2:** Advance health equity across the lifespan through faculty service in cooperation with partners at the regional, national, and global levels

**Goal 3:** Prepare the scholars and leaders through rigorous education, training and professional development programs

# CHE Leadership Team

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**Dara Mendéz, PhD MPH**

CHE Associate Director  
Associate Professor, Epidemiology



**Tiffany Gary-Webb, PhD MHS**

CHE Associate Director  
Professor, Epidemiology  
Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity  
and Inclusion



**Lora Ann Bray**

CHE Manager



**Emma Barinas-Mitchell, PhD**

Associate Professor, Epidemiology  
Director, Certificate for Health Equity



**Victoria Udo**

CHE Research Assistant



**Patricia Documét, MD DrPH**

Associate Professor, Behavioral and  
Community Health Sciences  
Director, Latinx Research and Outreach, CHE

# CHE Leadership Team

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**Nobel Maseru, PhD MPH**

Director, Social Justice, Racial Equity  
and Faculty Engagement



**Gina Brooks, MSL**

Project Coordinator,  
Community Violence Prevention  
Project




**Richard Garland, MSW**

Assistant Professor,  
Behavioral and Community Health  
Sciences



**Amrit Singh, MPH**

Project Coordinator, ADDORE  
Supplement



## **Goal 1: Advance health equity through programming, research, scientific inquiry and innovation**

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# Journal Club

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The CHE Journal Club is a platform designed to foster meaningful conversations surrounding the vital topic of health equity. Our aim is to engage faculty, students, staff, and community members in thought-provoking discussions that explore innovative approaches to researching problems and designing interventions that contribute to meaningful solutions.

The CHE Journal Club promoted cross-disciplinary conversations among nearly 50 students and faculty from across various schools and departments within the university community, including co-facilitation of meetings by CHE Health Justice Scholars. The structure supports in-depth discussion and learning about a health equity topic that attendees may not encounter in their academic coursework which broadens their knowledge of health inequities. Five journal club sessions were held during the academic year.

## » 2022-2023 Articles:

[Recognizing Trauma Experienced by Migrant Parents and Children - Identifying Behavioral Health Resources to Support Migrant Families](#)

[Flint Water Crisis: What happened and Why?](#)

[Examining Tiktok's potential for community-engaged digital knowledge mobilization with equity seeking-groups](#)

[Access to Obstetric, Behavioral Health, and surgical inpatient services after hospital mergers in rural-areas](#)

[No mental health without oral health](#)

# Focused Writing Sessions



The CHE Focused Writing sessions were created to provide positive peer support for participants to stay on track with their writing goals. Focused writing is open to all community members, students, faculty, and staff who need a quiet and supportive environment in which to write. Attendees from different states, universities, and disciplines come together to work on their individual writing assignments. Grants have been submitted, sermons polished, and term papers completed during these weekly three-hour sessions. During the academic year, CHE hosted 38 Focused Writing Sessions. These anecdotes speak to the benefit of this peer-supportive format.



## Feedback from our Focused Writing Participants

“

"Focused Writing helps me to reach my daily goals. It forces me to be deliberate and mindful about avoiding distractions". - **Keesha Roach**

"Colleagues from different disciplines and places dedicate time together to our individual writing projects. Focused Writing Fridays have become a much expected time in which we accomplish a lot or a little, sometimes give advice to our colleagues, and use the short breaks to move/dance while listening to energizing music. I have attended the Focused Writing from its beginning and try to attend as much as I can. I have finished several pieces of writing while attending the FW". - **Jorge Enrique Delgado**

"My creativity has been enhanced; time management skills improved (allocating only 50/hour for writing means I have to make each 50-minute time slot count. I have met key people who have introduced me to educational concepts and given of their time to facilitated Focus Groups for my training grant program. In summary, participating in Focus Writing Group has been a wonderful experience that has increased my writing productivity and I have developed connections that I predict will lead to lasting friendships with fellow writers who have shared this experience". - **Dr. Sandra Murray**

”

# Latino Engagement



The Emerging Latino Communities Group (ELC) coordinated by Dr. Patricia Documét, held 6 hybrid sessions between September 2022-April 2023, some of which included presentations from faculty, students, and community organizations. Co-sponsored by the CHE and the Center for Latin American Studies, the goal of ELC is to explore problems that Latinos in small yet rapidly growing populations face and how to solve those problems. Topics discussed over the semester included:

- Promotora-led, home-based intervention to promote healthy weight in Latino preschool children.
- Needs assessment of Latinos in Lawrence County, a Casa San Jose partnership
- Importance of research being done in different languages
- Pandemic related stress among Latina farmworkers in a Rural California Region
- Use of implementation science frameworks to translate and adapt a pregnancy app for an emerging Latino community.
- Photovoice to explore environmental sustainability among Latinos.





# Latino Engagement

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With the needs assessment commissioned by the Lawrence County Mental Health and Health Department Services, Dr. Patricia Documét, (lead author), Maria Salazar, Veronica Lozada Jenkins, and Monica Ruiz co-authored the Lawrence County Latino Community Needs Assessment in October 2022. Results from the five focus groups will inform health and social service providers on ways to promote health and well-being of their emerging Latino population.

The LatinxConnect: Elevating Latinx Identities & Contemporary Issues conference in October 2022 held a session on “Delivering Social Support to Align with Latino Cultural Knowledge and Practices” that featured Dr. Patricia Documét, Dr. Sharon Ross, and Dr. Diana Leyva.

Casa San Jose celebrates Latino culture, welcomes immigrants, and embraces inclusion, dignity, and respect. Casa San Jose leadership was invited to share insights on Latino health with public health students, faculty, and staff at the CHE Emerging Latino Communities Conversations and Health Justice Scholars Programs. They also partnered with CHE on a Latino Photovoice project exploring environmental sustainability.

CHE promoted the Latino Voices for the Environment exhibit sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic Regional Public Health Training Center, Pitt School of Public Health, and Pitt’s Mascaro Center for Sustainable Innovation in the Swanson School of Engineering. The photos taken by Latino residents are part of a research study exploring Latino culture and environmental behavior and were displayed for the community at the Beechview Carnegie Library on June 10, 2023.

CHE is a strategic partner of the Pittsburgh Latinx Artist Residency, which is an initiative led by Block Chronicles in collaboration with Casa San Jose. PLAR had its inaugural cohort which ended its first year residency in 2022.

# Community Research Advisory Board

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## **Impacting Research Across Disciplines—the Community Research Advisory Board (CRAB)**

The CRAB met 8 times this year and provided community informed and relevant guidance to 11 researchers. The diversity of research studies presented spanned the disciplines of medicine, education, public health, and psychiatry with most studies (55%) being funded by national agencies like the NIH and DOD. Researchers with new unfunded proposals (45%) mainly sought the CRAB for advice on how best to inform underrepresented populations about their research and for assistance identifying community-based and community-oriented organizations for partnered problem solving. After presentations to the CRAB, letters of support were written for two researchers (Dr. Diana Leyva; Dr. Tina Ndoh), and in partnership with another (Dr. Aaron Barchowsky) CRAB members facilitated a break-out session on CBPR at the Pitt Center for Human Environment and Equity Research (CHEER) Retreat in September 2022.

The CRAB continued its contracted collaboration with The Forbes Funds (TFF) and reviewed grants submitted to their Management Assistance Grant Program. Between 2019 and 2022, The Forbes Funds invested over \$1 million in the SWPA nonprofit sector. Across 51 grant projects, MAGs funding directly supported 145 organizations. Each project was reviewed by the CRAB. Over the past year (7/1/2022-6/30/2023), the CRAB reviewed and approved 6 of 8 total grant projects. Across the six successful applications, The Forbes Funds invested \$120,000. Both denials were supported by an evaluation process utilized by the CRAB.

# Community Research Advisory Board

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## **The CRAB engaged in various grant-funded projects during the past fiscal year (July 2022-June 2023):**

A subset of CRAB Members are serving as consultants and collaborating with Pitt Researchers on a supplement grant Alzheimer's Disease/Down Syndrome Outreach, Recruitment, and Engagement (ADDORE; Core Lead: Dr. Ann Cohen, Supplement Co-Lead: Dr. Dara Mendéz and Mario Browne). The goal is to execute the CRAB's first community-led education and immersion experience and equip Alzheimer's Disease and Down Syndrome researchers with in-depth knowledge and understanding of community-based research and anti-racism praxis.

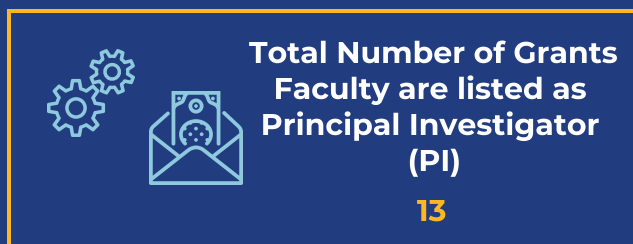
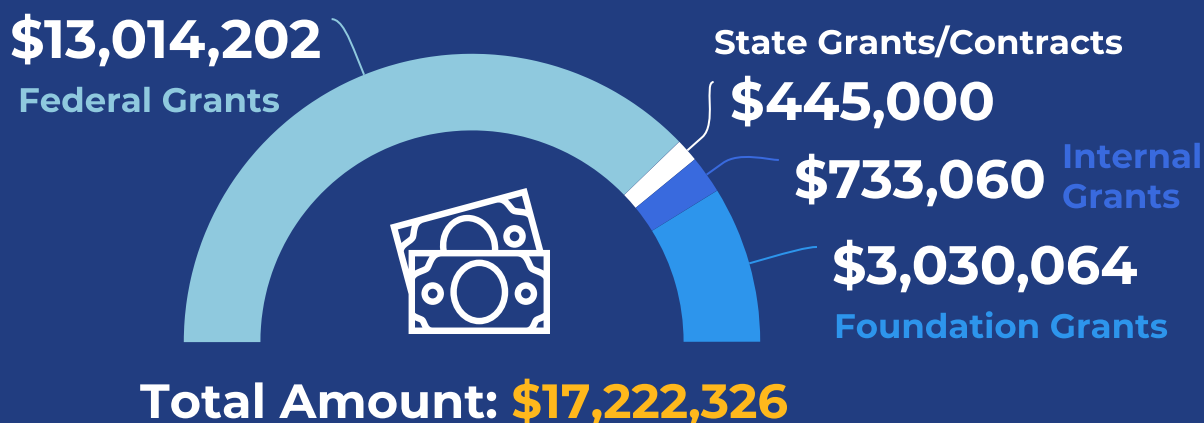
The CRAB was written into a Maternal and Child Health Research Center Grant (PIs: Dr. Dara Mendéz, Dr. Ashley Hill) and if funded, would serve as a consultative resource body for Pitt investigators involved in the center grant.

The CHE letter of support for Dr. Diana Leyva's Math Intervention Program solicits CRAB's assistance to identify African American organizations as partners.

CRAB provided a letter of support for the CHEER P-30 Grant (PIs: Dr. Barchowsky; Dr. Ndoh) and if funded will engage with researchers through the duration of the grant period by providing tailored feedback on their projects.

CRAB Co-Chair and CHE Manager consulted with PHRESH Study investigators and advised them on strategies to promote a more equitable and diverse staff work environment.

# CHE Core Faculty Partnered Projects and Grants: July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023





**Goal 2: Advance health equity  
across the lifespan through  
faculty service in cooperation  
with partners at the regional,  
national, and global levels**

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# Highlighted Community Engaged Partnerships

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**Health  
Advocates  
In Reach  
(HAIR)  
Program**



**Pennsylvania  
Department of  
Health Equity  
Policy Review**



# Highlighted Community Engaged Partnerships

## Health Advocates In Reach (HAIR) Program

The CHE commemorated the 20th anniversary of Bat's Barber Shop in March 2023 by coordinating a plethora of community-based partners to provide prostate cancer and blood pressure screenings, COVID-19 vaccinations, and mental health resources for the residents of East Liberty and the surrounding community.

As a result, three men required additional follow-up prostate cancer screening. Mr. Kevin Andrews, owner of Bat's Barber Shop, passed away in August 2022. He was a longstanding member of the CHE HAIR Network and will be remembered for his commitment to supporting evidence-based public health interventions in this barber shop.



# Highlighted Community Engaged Partnerships

## Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank

Since July 2022, the CHE has partnered with the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank (GPCFB) to address food insecurity as a social determinant of health.

CHE recruits student volunteers each month from across the schools of the health sciences to help distribute fresh food to hundreds of people and families, including Pitt students, at the New Oakland Food Distribution site.



# Highlighted Community Engaged Partnerships

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## **Healthy Start, Inc.**

CHE advances the Healthy Start Inc. mission to improve maternal and child health and to reduce poor birth outcomes and infant mortality in Allegheny County. CHE assisted in the development of the BIRTH Plan, training of Community Health Advocates, and serves on its Community Action Network (CAN), which fosters academic community partnerships and opportunities for training public health students as future practitioners in the field.



# Highlighted Community Engaged Partnerships

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## **Black Equity Coalition**

The Center for Health Equity leadership (Mendéz, Gary-Webb, Maseru) are founding members of the Black Equity Coalition and also part of the executive team. Dr. Gary-Webb also serves as the co-lead of the BEC Data Justice Working Group. CHE and BEC have collaborated on community educational events as well as COVID testing and vaccinations.



## **Modernized Anti-Racist Data Ecosystems (MADE)**

The Black Equity Coalition (BEC) is partnering with the City of Pittsburgh and other community partners following a \$1.1-million-dollar award from the de Beaumont Foundation Modernized Anti-Racist Data Ecosystems (MADE) for Health Justice grant. The focus of this collaborative initiative is to support communities in creating health equity-focused local data ecosystems.

Data Justice for Pittsburgh's Black Neighborhoods is a cross-sectoral collective and working group consisting of the Black Equity Coalition, POISE Foundation, University of Pittsburgh Center for Health Equity, City of Pittsburgh Department of Innovation and Performance, City of Pittsburgh's Mayor's Office, Carnegie Mellon University Community Robotics, Education and Technology Empowerment (CREATE) Lab, The Forbes Funds, Gateway Medical Society, UrbanKind Institute, University of Pittsburgh Center for Social and Urban Research Western Pennsylvania Regional Data Center (WPRDC).

# Highlighted Community Engaged Partnerships

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## **Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH)**

Partnering with the Center for Health Equity and other partners involved in the CDC-funded Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) project. The Black Equity Coalition is contributing to the project's vaccine outreach effort by:

- Coordinating Vaccination Clinics for Adults in REACH communities.
- Train trusted messengers to support vaccine education and delivery in REACH communities.
- Develop and implement communications messages to raise awareness about adult vaccinations in REACH communities.

## **Casa San Jose**

Casa San Jose celebrates Latino culture, welcomes immigrants, and embraces inclusion, dignity, and respect. Casa San Jose leadership was invited to share insights on Latino health with public health students, faculty, and staff at the CHE Emerging Latino Communities Conversations and Health Justice Scholars Programs. They also partnered with CHE on a Latino Photovoice project exploring environmental sustainability.

# Highlighted Community Engaged Partnerships

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## **Pennsylvania Department of Health Equity Policy Review**

Dr. Noble Maseru and Dr. Dara Mendéz provided guidance and advice to the researchers of the Pennsylvania Department of Health Equity Policy Review report in the Annual Report. They also contributed to the content editing of the Health Equity Policy Review. The report offers recommendations to the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA DOH) and encompasses a review of 440 PA DOH internal policies. The review analyzed how PA DOH policies and processes impact health equity and explored potential revisions to both advance and meet health equity criteria. The recommendations presented in the report will enable decision-makers to adopt a more equity-oriented approach, ensuring that all Pennsylvanians have an equal opportunity to achieve equitable health outcomes.

# Highlighted Community Engaged Partnerships

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## **Black Researcher Consortium**

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a disproportionate impact on Black communities in Pennsylvania and nationwide. CHE has representation on Black Researcher Consortium Project with the PA Department of Health. The Project provides an evaluative analysis of the COVID vaccination data related to the COVID-19 pandemic to determine if there were race and geographic specific variations. The Project focuses on vaccination rates among African American populations residing in five specific cities in Pennsylvania: Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Harrisburg, Erie, and Chester. Approximately 86% of Black PA residents live in these locales. BRC Project's findings and recommendations, if implemented will advance vaccine equity and should improve the health of African Americans and under resourced populations in general. The rationale for doing so is, if disparities exist – amounting to inequity - policy decision makers can be informed to formulate policy initiatives, intervention strategies and if needed, provide infrastructural development to reduce vaccine utilization disparity.

# Highlighted Community Engaged Partnerships

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## **The Center for Healthy Environments and Equity Research (CHEER) Collaborative**

CHE is a core member of the Center for Healthy Environments and Equity Research (CHEER) Collaborative. Comprised of a team of faculty from Pitt's School of Public Health and Medicine, Engineering, and community partners including the Water Collaboratory, CHEER's objective is to build an infrastructure for conducting and obtaining large-scale national funding for environmental health disparities research.

CHE faculty are providing expertise in grant development, and the CRAB is advising researchers on principles of community-based participatory research and engagement.

# The Equity Edition Newsletter



## Content

The Equity Edition serves as a dynamic platform aimed at advancing the principles of health equity by disseminating information on noteworthy public health achievements, upcoming events, and pertinent news.

Through insightful articles and features, the newsletter strives to raise awareness about health disparities, foster inclusivity, and highlight initiatives that contribute to equitable healthcare access and outcomes.

## Impact

The newsletter is a powerful advocacy tool to promote a social equity perspective in all policies. The newsletter provides a means to acknowledge and celebrate the collaborative efforts of various sectors and communities in tackling health inequities.

## Outreach

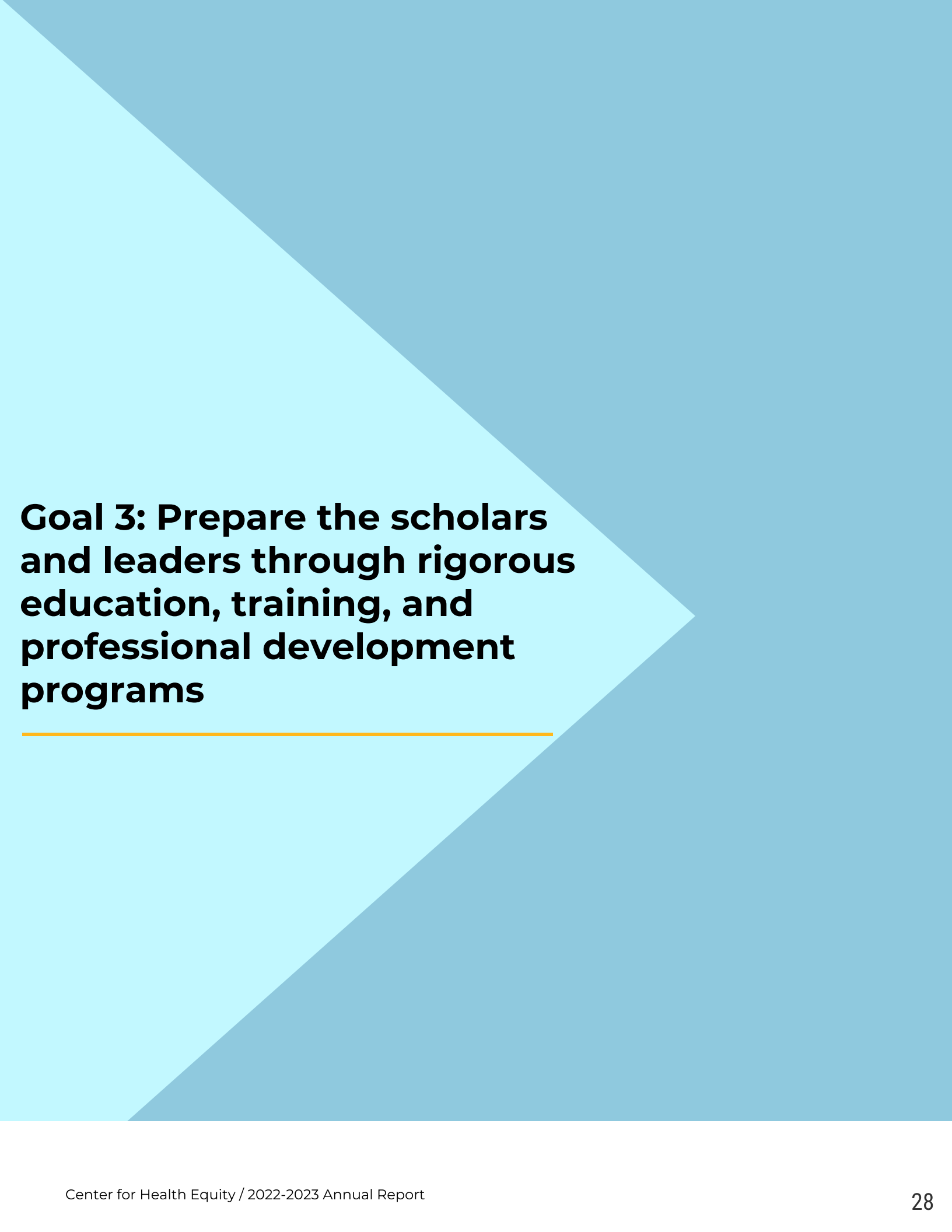
Through its regular updates, the newsletter aims to empower individuals, organizations, and communities to actively contribute to the ongoing discourse on health equity, ultimately fostering positive change and progress in the field of public health.

### » 2022-2023 Editions:

[September 2022](#)  
[October 2022](#)  
[November/December 2022](#)  
[January/February 2023](#)  
[March 2023](#)  
[April/Summer 2023](#)

### » 2022-2023 Newsletter Statistics

- 143 subscribers
- 16% of viewers click content links
- 21% open and read the newsletter fully



## **Goal 3: Prepare the scholars and leaders through rigorous education, training, and professional development programs**

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# Health Justice Scholars Program

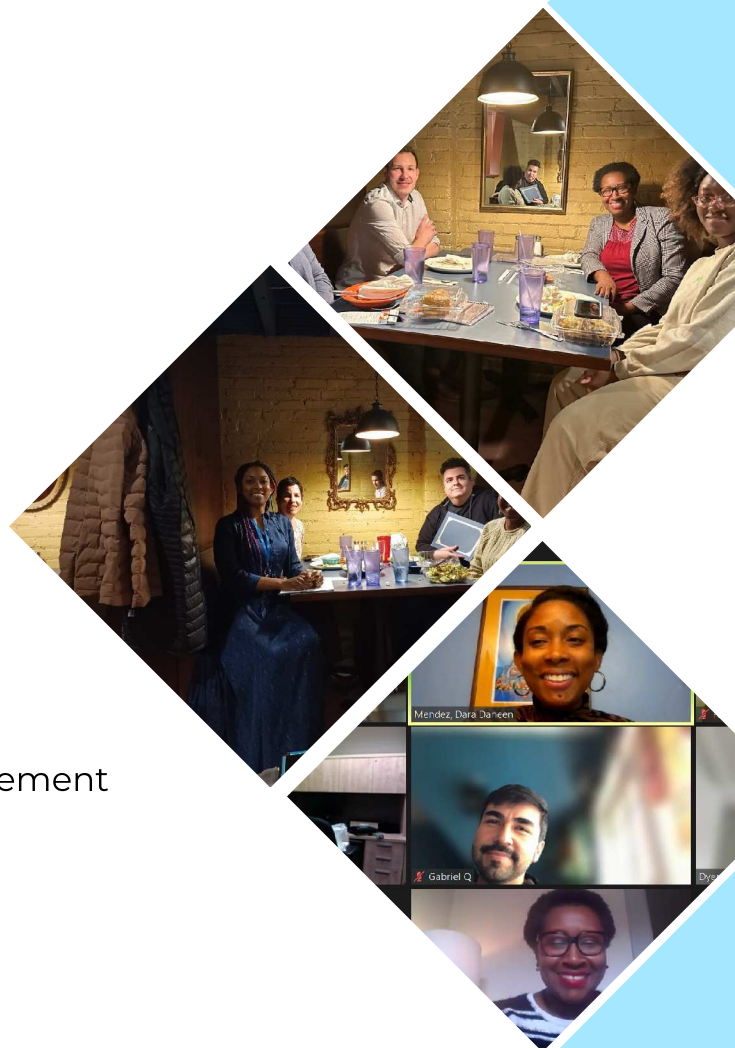


The Health Justice Scholars Program is designed to foster the growth of scholars at Pitt Public Health with a strong focus on health equity and justice. The program supports individuals with interests and projects related to various aspects of health equity research, policy, and practice.

Through this program, scholars are provided with resources, mentorship, and opportunities to advance their research and initiatives that strive to eliminate health disparities and promote equity in health outcomes for all communities.

## » 2022-2023 Health Justice Scholars:

- Donald Bourne, Health Policy and Management MD/PhD
- Fatimah Dixon, Epidemiology MPH
- Harika Dyer, Epidemiology MPH
- Jorge Antonio Gumucio, Behavioral and Community Health Sciences MPH
- Alyce Palko, BCHS MPH
- Gabriel Quinteros, Behavioral and Community Health Sciences MPH/MSW

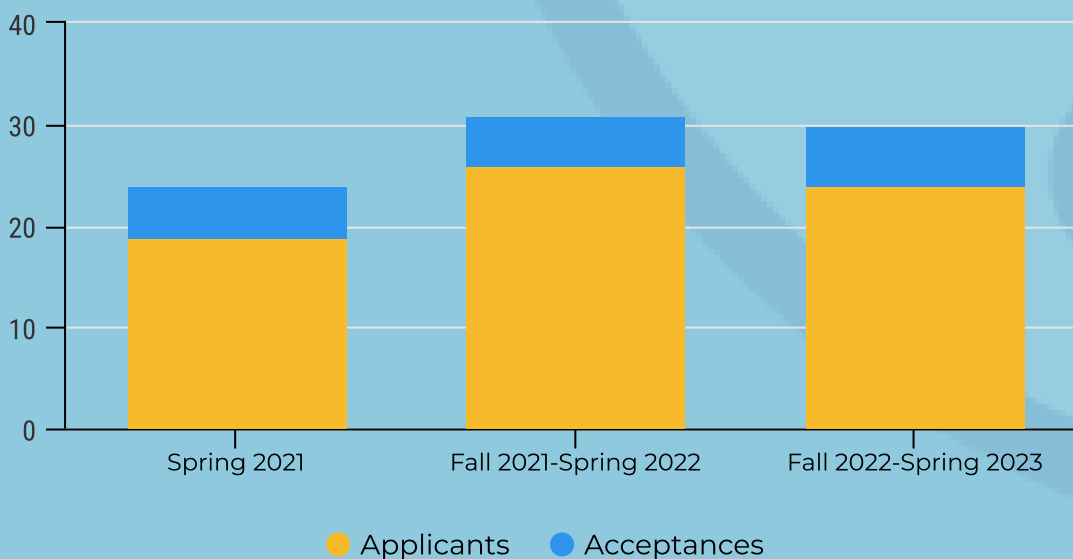


# Health Justice Scholars Program



Meeting Content	Presenters
<b>Program Introduction</b>	Dr. Mendéz and CHE Staff
<b>Introduction to Core Faculty</b>	CHE Faculty and Staff
<b>Scholar-Led Meeting</b>	Dr. Mendéz and Health Justice Scholars
<b>Publishing 101</b>	Dr. Barinas-Mitchell
<b>Scholar-Led Meeting</b>	Health Justice Scholars
<b>Public Health Critical Race Praxis and R4P Equity Framework</b>	Dr. Olaniyan
<b>Casa San José and Community Partnership</b>	Ms. Monica Ruiz
<b>Celebration</b>	CHE Faculty, Staff, HJS

Applicants vs. Acceptances 2021-2023



This graph depicts the number of applicants for the HJS Program.



# Student Engagement

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The CHE Manager serves as the staff advisor for the SPH FORWARDS Organization (Fostering Opportunities to Recognize, Welcome, and Advance Racially Diverse Students). In this support role, CHE provides mentorship and professional networking opportunities to enhance student's public health experience promoting matriculation.

The CHE collaborated with SPH leadership, faculty, and graduate students to provide public health content for 25 high-school students participating in the School of Medicine Health Professions Prep Program. Students attended two on-site sessions at the SPH (January 18 and 25, 2023) and were introduced to skills needed to pursue a career in public health. These sessions also covered the application process for the SPH Summer Science Academy and Pitt's Undergraduate Bachelor's in Public Health Program.

CHE provided programmatic support in securing student panelists and community speakers to support the Pitt Public Health Scholars Program that hosted 40 undergraduate students from across the country from June 3-July 20, 2023. The goal is to expose these students to public health careers and provide community engagement and internship opportunities.

For the fourth consecutive year, the CHE engaged SPH students and faculty to develop age-appropriate public health content for 88 middle-school students participating in the UPMC Junior Health Care Explorers Program. Two virtual sessions were held on February 25 and March 4, 2023.

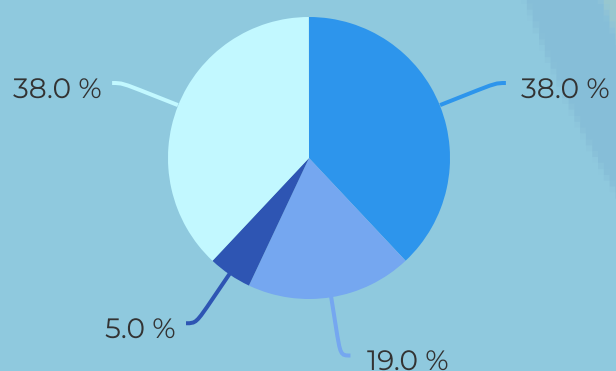
# MCH Equity Scholars Program



Founded in the fall of 2018 by EPI's Dara Mendéz, this group is a platform for learners and early-career researchers to exchange ideas, network and collaborate on projects related to health equity, reproductive justice and maternal and child health. The average meeting attendance was approximately 18 in Fall 2022 and about 15 in Spring 2023. These scholars represent various Pitt schools and departments, including Behavioral and Community Health Sciences, Biology, Communications, Epidemiology, Health Policy and Management, Human Genetics, Medicine, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Psychology, Rehabilitation Science, and Social Work.

Participation and mentorship come from at least 5 Pitt faculty representing the School of Health Sciences, School of Medicine (Internal Medicine, Pediatrics), School of Nursing, and the School of Public Health (Behavioral and Community Health Sciences, Epidemiology). The MCHES hosted 8 hybrid sessions from August 2022 to April 2023 featuring presentations on current MCH research by students, faculty, or other guest speakers (some sessions recorded).

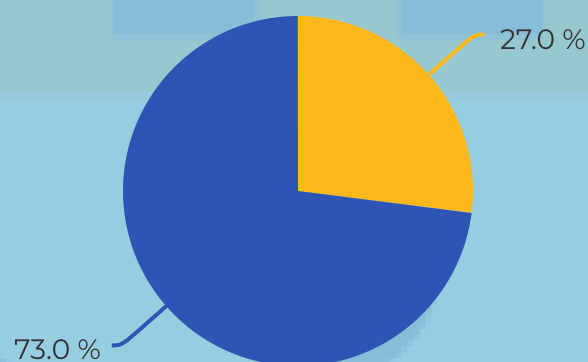
**Student Background diversity**



- High School or Undergraduate students
- Doctoral-Level Students
- Postdoctoral Level
- Master's Program

This illustration depicts the varying educational levels of students who took part in the program.

**Pitt vs. Non-Pitt Attendance**



- Non-Pitt Students
- Pitt Students

A total of 27% of the MCHES are from non-Pitt institutions, such as the Congressional Hunger Center, Drexel University, University of Maryland, and UPMC Children's Primary Care Center.

# MCH Equity Scholars Program



## MCH Equity Scholars 2022-2023 Schedule Overview

Month	Content	Presenter/Topic
<b>September</b>	General Introduction Overview of MCHES	Scholar networking
<b>October</b>	Scholar networking	Mikaela Moore (EPI '23), Amaya Christie (EPI '23), and Harika Dyer (EPI '23)
<b>November</b>	Climate change and perinatal mental health	Dr. Jennifer Barkin (Mercy University)
<b>December</b>	Perinatal mental health and health behaviors	Drs. Christine Call (Pitt Psychology) and Rachel Kolko (Pitt Psychiatry)
<b>January</b>	Peer-to-peer support session	Scholar networking
<b>February</b>	Perinatal Periods of Risk data analyses	Alyssa Monaghan (Allegheny County Health Department, Office of Family & Community Health)
<b>March</b>	Trajectory of her public health career, including positions with NASEM, UPMC Health Plan, and the Pittsburgh VA	Dr. Donna Almario Doeblen
<b>April</b>	Allostatic load and health outcomes among low-income and Black populations	Dr. Brittany Brown-Podgorski (HPM)

# Health Equity Certificate

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The Health Equity Certificate (HEC) program in the SPH is 15-credit certificate program developed to provide students with a foundational understanding of the root causes of health inequities, to increase the cultural awareness of public health and other professionals and to provide students with methods appropriate for research and intervention in health inequities.

The HEC is led by an interdepartmental group of faculty, who are CHE core or affiliate faculty and includes experts in student mentoring and health equity research and practice including Dr. Barinas-Mitchell (Director), Dr. Gary-Webb (Epidemiology department representative and former director), Dr. Elias (BCHS department representative), Dr. Batra-Hershey (HPM department representative) and Dr. Deslouches (EOH department representative).

CHE core and affiliate faculty are directly involved in HEC core and elective courses and in student applied experiences. For the academic year 2022-2023 there were 24 students enrolled in the HEC; 12 graduated and 6 newly enrolled this past academic year. Currently, there are 17 students enrolled in the certificate; students from several departments and degree programs are represented.

# Bernard D. Goldstein Award



The Goldstein award was established in 2005 by then dean and professor of environmental and occupational health, Bernard Goldstein, and his wife Russellyn Carruth, an adjunct professor in environmental and occupational health. The award serves to support students and postdoctoral fellows at the School of Public Health working in either environmental health disparities or public health practice. The award is available annually, alternating between those two areas, and is awarded to eligible students through a competitive application process.



## **2022-2023 Goldstein Awardee:**

The CHE named Elizabeth Swart its 2022 Bernard D. Goldstein Awardee in Environmental Health Disparities and Public Health Practice for her project "Community-Based Survey of Healthy Environments and Associated Childhood Thriving: The Pittsburgh Study". Elizabeth is a first-year Ph.D. student in the Department of Epidemiology. Her research interests include applied public health, health care equity, reproductive and women's health, environmental epidemiology, and investigating how health policies affect health systems and outcomes. Additionally, she works as a Program Administrator for the UPMC Centers for High-Value Health Care and Value-Based Pharmacy Initiatives.



**Elizabeth Swart, MPH**

## 2022-2023 Faculty Mentorship



Faculty	Master's Students Mentored	Doctoral Students Mentored	Post Doctoral Scholars, Residents, and Fellows Mentored
Dr. Dara Mendéz	2	3	10
Dr. Patricia Documét	9	3	1
Dr. Emma Barinas-Mitchell	8	5	4
Dr. Tiffany Gary-Webb	3	1	0
<b>Total:</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>15</b>

CHE faculty are actively engaged in training the next generation of public health scholars and professionals.

# Appendix

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# Awards & Accolades



## **Dr. Dara Mendéz**

Dr. Dara Mendéz received tenure and promotion to Associate Professor in Epidemiology effective July 2022.

## **Dr. Noble Maseru**

Appointed to Advisory Board of Directors Social Mission Alliance.

## **Dr. Tiffany Gary-Webb**

Dr. Gary-Webb was invited to join other Pennsylvania health equity leaders at a White House-sponsored in-person conference on the health concerns in the Pittsburgh area. She has been attending multiple discussions hosted by Vice President Kamala Harris' office and the White House Office of Public Engagement to highlight issues that affect marginalized groups and individuals.

## **Dr. Patricia Documét**

Dr. Patricia I. Documét, MD, DrPH (BCHS faculty) and Diego G. Chaves-Gnecco, MD, MPH, FAAP (BCHS alumnus), were honored on June 27, 2023 with proclamations from Mayor Edward C. Gainey for their contributions to the city of Pittsburgh. Patricia was honored for “her remarkable leadership...empowering communities to look out for their overall health” through her work training promotores (community health workers) and Diego for “over 20 years of extraordinary service...” through his creation of and work with Salud Para Niños.”

## Core Faculty CV Links

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[Dr. Dara Mendéz](#)



[Dr. Tiffany Gary-Webb](#)



[Dr. Patrica Documét](#)



[Dr. Emma Barinas-Mitchell](#)



[Dr. Noble Maseru](#)

# Contact Us

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