

GEORGIA Rural Health INNOVATION CENTER

AT MERCER UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

This is the official newsletter of the Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center designed to keep stakeholders up-to-date on key information and events.

Sow A Seed Grant Recipient Reach2Teach on Increasing COVID-19 Vaccines and Blood Donations in Their Community



Pictured Above is Cecil Kilgore at various events hosted by Reach2Teach

Reach2Teach (formerly known as New Life Outreach Ministries), a 501-C3 organization located in Eatonton, Georgia, works closely with New Life Outreach Christian Center and the American Red Cross to increase positive health outcomes in Putnam County. They have assisted in registering blood donors and hosting American Red Cross Blood Drives, providing College Scholarships, clothing and food drives, GED assistance, customer service job training, and financial assistance for residents of Putnam, Dekalb, Bibb, Hancock, and Baldwin Counties.

Reach2Teach's grant proposal has been selected because of the potential of the project to improve healthcare outcomes for their community. Their proposal focuses on reducing the spread of Covid-19 by providing a vaccination clinic and increasing blood donations while also providing community health education, directly addressing the Center's focus on health literacy for rural Georgia.

[Read More](#)



Center Projects

Last Session of Rural Healthcare Ethics ECHO Scheduled for February 2, 2022



On February 2, 2022 the Center will conclude its first Rural Healthcare Ethics ECHO which was presented by Mercer University School of Medicine's Department of Bioethics and Medical Humanities. The program hosted 10 interactive ECHO sessions covering ethical challenges rural practices often face. The sessions produced a robust discussion around the practice of ethics and ways to

better care for patients. As this first series concludes, planning for the next session has already begun. Check georgiaruralhealth.org/project-echo/ for more details about upcoming ECHO offerings.

[Learn More](#)

Center to Collaborate with Mercer School of Engineering to Host Lean 6 Sigma Informational Sessions for Rural Healthcare Providers

Lean 6 Sigma Webinar

Presented by
Melinda Hollingshed, PhD, PMP, LSSMBB

This webinar will provide an introduction to the process improvement methodology of Lean 6 Sigma and how it can be used to address common as well as complex operational issues within healthcare in both clinical and administrative areas.



FEB 23 • NOON TO 1:00 PM

GeorgiaRuralHealth.org/6-sigma

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Click the image above to register!

Medical Minute to Increase Children's Health Literacy



Studies show that health can be improved through health literacy. That's why Mercer University School of Medicine and the Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center have joined together to bring you the Mercer Medical Minute. Designed for children and young adults, this series of videos feature medical students who introduce basic health tips and guidelines needed to lead a healthy and active life.

These short videos are designed to be shown in rural school systems and through programs like 4H and the Boy's and Girl's Club. If you are interested in partnering with the Center to have these videos shared with your students, please email **Morgan Williams, MPH**, Director of Communications and Events. For videos, and additional health education resources, please click the link below.

[Learn More](#)

Center Now Providing Health Education Program Planning to Rural Communities

Janice Stanford, MPH, CHES is a Rural Health Representative with the Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center. Janice holds a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Paine College and a Masters of Public Health from Mercer University. Her areas of interest are health care access and promotion. Janice has years of experience navigating health care and social service systems and providing managed care and care transitions for vulnerable communities in Central Georgia.

[Read More](#)



Health Fairs & Events

Visit us at these upcoming events for giveaways, free healthcare screenings, and wellness activities.

Washington County

March 5, 2022, 11 am - 2 pm, St. James Christian Fellowship Church

Clay County

March 19, 2022, 10 am - 1 pm, Fort Gaines Baptist Church

Harris County

June 4, 2022, 11 am - 2 pm, Harris County Community Center

Randolph County | May 14, 2022

Marion County | May 21, 2022

Dooly County | June 11, 2022

Sumter County | June 25, 2022

Hancock County | July 2022

Putnam County | coming soon

Peach County | coming soon

**Are you interested in hosting a health fair in your community or
being a vendor at one of the fairs listed above?**

Please email Morgan Williams, MPH

NEWS & NOTABLES



The Center Welcomes Edson Jean-Jacques, MS



Edson Jean-Jacques, MS joined the Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center in January 2022 as the Director of Demographic Research. He earned a Bachelor of Science in International Affairs and a Master of Science in Applied Demography from Florida State University. He also studied abroad in Eastern Europe making connections and learning new skills. His areas of interest and past projects

include designing digital maps, aging population, life course perspective, demographics and economic analysis, population projection, and broadband access.

Edson previously worked in the Oklahoma Department of Commerce particularly, the Policy, Research, and Economic Analysis Division. He has an extensive background in demographic analysis, spatial analysis using GIS, and economic development. While working for the Oklahoma Department of Commerce he was instrumental in designing a broadband map for the state, producing reports of workforce growth, auditing Oklahoma's water loss and control program, and evaluating applications to the Oklahoma Business Relief Program during COVID.

In his free time, Edson enjoys creating music as a jazz guitarist, going to concerts and shows, traveling and spending time with his family.

The Center Donates Blood Pressure Cuffs for American Heart Month

February is American Heart Month where Americans join in the battle against heart disease. This annual observation started in 1963 and continues to grow every year as local organizations, the department of public health, and health systems try to increase awareness about heart disease and preventative efforts.

High blood pressure increases the risk for heart disease and stroke, the leading causes of death in the United States as reported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC/National Center for Health Statistics, 2022).



[Read More](#)



- Warren County Women -

*Your time is valuable, your life is priceless.
A mammogram can save your life!*

**Wednesday, March 2nd,
9:00 am - 3:00 pm**

WARREN COUNTY LIBRARY,
10 WARREN ST.
WARRENTON, GA 30828

Make your appointment today!
CALL: 706-774-4149

Annual screening mammograms will be offered to women age 40 and over. Insurance will be filed so bring your **insurance card** and **photo ID** to your appointment!

Are you uninsured? Please call Lisa Ann Wheeler, Patient Navigator, with the Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program (BCCP) to schedule your appointment: **706-667-4255**.

 UNIVERSITY HEALTH CARE SYSTEM



Publications

[Surgical Stabilization of Rib Fractures Improves Outcomes in the Geriatric Patient Population](#)

Dudley B. Christie, MD, Timothy E. Nowack, MD, Cory J. Nonnemacher, MD, [Anne Montgomery, PhD](#), and Dennis W. Ashley, MD

[Crotalidae Polyvalent Immune Fab and Cost-Effective Management of Hospital Admissions for Snakebites](#)

Mallory B. Bowden, MD, Dudley B. Christie, MD, Kelly H. Hand, MS, [Anne Montgomery, PhD](#)

Dr. Anne Montgomery, Biostatistician for the Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center, is available to conduct research for rural counties upon request. To contact Dr. Montgomery, please email her at Montgomery_A@georgiaruralhealth.org.

Visit our website to learn more.



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