



**RCMI CENTER
FOR HEALTH
DISPARITIES
RESEARCH**



Representing NCCU in Western North Carolina are Patrick McMurray, Jasmine Benner, Leatrice Martin, Aaron Moore, and Jennifer Collier, joined by Peter Le, Executive Director of St. Joseph Primary Care.

»» HEALTHCARE RELIEF ON THE MOVE: NCCU MOBILE HEALTH UNIT SUPPORTS RECOVERY EFFORTS IN NORTH CAROLINA

NCCU's Mobile Health Unit played a crucial role in supporting residents affected by Hurricane Helene. The unit spent over a month traveling between counties, providing vital healthcare services to communities in need of recovery and support. In collaboration with the Research Centers in Minority Institutions (RCMI) and the Practice-Based Equity Research Network (PBERN), NCCU teamed up with St. Joseph Primary Care and the North Carolina Association of Free and Charitable Clinics (NCAFCC) to extend healthcare services to residents in Mitchell and Yancey Counties from November 1–3.

The NCCU team, along with Executive Director Peter Le from St. Joseph Primary Care, strategically set up mobile health clinics in high-need areas. These mobile clinics provided a broad range of critical services to residents, including tetanus vaccinations, blood sugar checks, blood pressure monitoring, wound care, and treatment for common ailments.

In addition to providing immediate medical care, the team also distributed important medical supplies to those in need. This outreach has provided valuable insights into the evolving needs of the affected communities, and NCCU's team, in partnership with local organizations, is committed to returning to continue supporting the area. The ongoing collaboration will continue to focus on providing essential healthcare services while also supporting research to better understand and address the long-term needs of the affected communities.



RCMI CELEBRATES VETERANS DAY IN CONCORD



On Veterans Day, NCCU's Research Centers in Minority Institutions (RCMI) team honored veterans at a community celebration in Concord, Cabarrus County. The event featured an educational table where public health materials were shared, and food giveaways were provided, highlighting RCMI's dedication to wellness and health literacy within the community.



The team offered resources on various health topics, empowering veterans and residents to make informed choices about their health. The event was a meaningful opportunity to express gratitude to veterans while supporting overall community health.

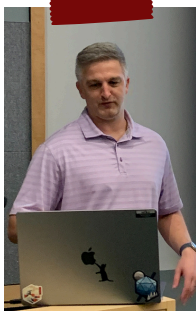
SPREADING HOPE AND GRATITUDE IN CABARRUS COUNTY

The Thanksgiving Food Give-A-Way in Concord, Cabarrus County, brought smiles and support to 89 attendees. Held on November 23, 2024, this heartwarming event, organized by the RCMI/HOPE initiative, provided holiday meals to families in need.

This effort highlighted the power of compassion, ensuring families could celebrate Thanksgiving with comfort and joy.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE NCCU-RTI CARES SEMINAR AT BBRI



The NCCU-RTI CARES Seminar at BBRI brought together researchers and students to explore the latest advancements in environmental health science. Dr. Mark Nelms, a computational toxicologist from RTI International, delivered an insightful presentation on "Use of Chemical Structure-Based Information and Computational Approaches for Evaluating Chemical Compounds."

Dr. Nelms discussed how computational toxicology is transforming in vitro testing by addressing gaps, prioritizing chemicals, and optimizing assay selection. Through predictive insights and innovative approaches, his work enhances decision-making and supports more effective toxicological research.

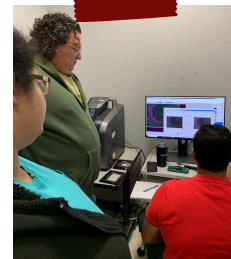
This seminar showcased the strength of the NCCU-RTI collaboration, emphasizing their shared commitment to advancing environmental health research and justice.

▶▶▶ HANDS-ON TRAINING WITH KEYENCE BX 810 INVERTED MICROSCOPE

Mr. Soumil Madhiwala, Senior Sales Engineer from Keyence Corporation of America, led a hands-on training session on the Keyence BX 810 inverted microscope for scientists and students at BBRI.

Dr. Diego Correia and Dr. Zainab Afzal brought their samples to explore the microscope's capabilities, testing the functionalities of its available modules. Mr. Madhiwala also demonstrated the microscope's extended functions, showcasing potential upgrades for future research needs.

The session was attended by BBRI researchers, including Dr. Qing Cheng, Dr. Juhang Lee, Dr. Diego Correia, Dr. Zainab Afzal, Jordan Grover, Vandana Veershetty, and Aracelys Colon, based on the sign-in sheet. This training offered valuable hands-on experience and insights into the advanced capabilities of the Keyence BX 810, supporting the continued growth of research at BBRI.



▶▶▶ CEC TEAM COLLABORATES WITH EAC MEMBER, DR. GOLDIE BYRD TO PROVIDE AWARENESS ABOUT ALZHEIMER'S AND DEMENTIA RESEARCH IN COMMUNITIES



NCCU's RCMI recently held two impactful events addressing Alzheimer's, dementia, and brain health disparities in minority communities. The Your Voice, Your Health panel focused on the importance of clinical trial participation, while A Matter of Faith and Health in Warsaw, NC, featured health screenings, performances, and insights from Dr. Goldie Byrd on Alzheimer's and dementia. These events underscored the need for greater awareness and involvement in clinical trials within communities of color.

Learn more [here](#).

▶▶▶ YOUR VOICE, YOUR HEALTH: AI, HEALTH EQUITY, AND RESEARCH

Join us on Friday, **January 17th, 2025, at 12pm EST** for the next Your Voice, Your Health virtual panel. This session will explore the intersection of artificial intelligence (AI), health equity, and research, navigating the challenges and opportunities in using AI to improve healthcare outcomes in underserved communities.

Don't miss the chance to engage with experts and community leaders as we discuss how AI can drive more equitable healthcare solutions and transform research efforts.



Dr. Siobahn Day Grady
Professor/ Program Director of Information Science, NCCU



Michael Levy
CEO Of Digital Health Institute for Transformation (DHIT)



Dr. Chris Gibbons
Founder & CEO of Greystone Group



Dr. Wanda Boone
PCDC/Together for Resilient Youth (TRY)

➤➤➤ CEC: EXPANDING SERVICES TO ENHANCE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Community Engagement Core (CEC), a key part of the RCMI Center for Health Disparities, has been actively offering services like health education, health screenings, trainings, consultations, support for community engaged research, and assistance in connecting researchers to communities and researchers to communities. These services further strengthen our efforts in promoting health equity through research engagement.



Updated forms for these services will be available soon on our [RCMI Forms page](#)—your go-to hub for easy access to all the resources you need.

Engaging and utilizing these forms will help with efficiencies between researchers, community members, students, and staff as we all strive to build healthier, more equitable communities together!

➤➤➤ THROUGH THE EYES OF NCCU VOLUNTEERS: BRINGING HOPE TO WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

What was it like to assist communities recovering from Hurricane Helene? Volunteers from NCCU's RCMI and Nursing School shared their experiences of delivering medical care and essential supplies to residents in Western North Carolina.

From distributing medications to witnessing the resilience of affected families, their reflections shed light on the impact of service and the ongoing needs in the region.

 Read their stories on NCCU News: [Click Here](#)



COMMUNITY EVENTS

- 12/06 - Your voice, Your Health - Online
- 12/07 - Wake County Community Health Fair - Apex, NC.
- 01/17 - Your voice, Your Health - Online
- 01/31 - Community Engaged Research - Durham, NC.

COMING SOON



For further information regarding event specifics such as location and hours, please refer to our virtual calendar.

We invite you to connect with us and share your updates, ideas, faculty publications and ongoing research endeavors. Reach out to us today and let's collaborate!



Dr. Claudia Alberico
RCMI Program Manager



www.nccu.edu/rcmi



rcmi@nccu.edu

Editor: Dayane Friedkin (RCMI Program Coordinator)



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UNIVERSITY

Julius L. Chambers
Biomedical/Biotechnology
Research Institute