

Delta Regional Forum: Population Health, Development, and Entrepreneurial Problem Solving

July 18-19, 2018

Coahoma County Higher Education Center

Clarksdale, Mississippi



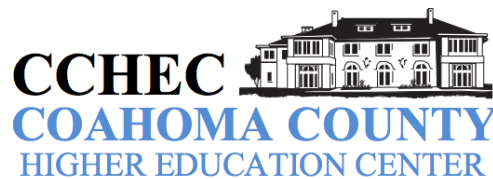
**The Delta Regional Forum:
Population Health, Development, and
Entrepreneurial Problem Solving**

July 18-19, 2018

**Coahoma County Higher Education Center
Clarksdale, Mississippi**

Organizers and Sponsors

The Delta Regional Forum would not have been possible without the support of the following organizations.



Delta Regional Forum: Population Health, Development, and Entrepreneurial Problem Solving

Coahoma County Higher Education Center, Clarksdale, MS

Sessions at a Glance Wednesday, July 18, 2018

Time		Event	Location
8:00 AM	9:00 AM	Registration and Continental Breakfast	Cutrer Lobby and Boardroom
9:00 AM	9:30 AM	Introduction and Opening Remarks	Ballroom
9:30 AM	10:45 AM	Plenary Session 1: State of the Delta	Ballroom
10:45 AM	10:55 AM	Break	
10:55 AM	12:10 PM	Workshop 1: Accessing Data on Children and Families: Mississippi KIDS COUNT	Ballroom
		Panel 1: Challenges, Opportunities, and Innovations for Workforce Development and Family Economic Security	Lewis 301
12:10 PM	1:10 PM	Networking Lunch	Cutrer Lobby
1:10 PM	1:20 PM	Break	
1:20 PM	2:35 PM	Plenary Session 2: Delta Scholars Student Presentations	Ballroom Lewis 301
2:35 PM	2:45 PM	Break	
2:45 PM	4:00 PM	Workshop 2: The Future of Data Dissemination at the US Census Bureau	Ballroom
		Paper Presentations 1: Land, Food Systems, and Policy	Lewis 301
4:00 PM	4:10 PM	Break	
4:10 PM	5:25 PM	Panel 2: Interdisciplinary and Community Engagement Approaches: The Case of Lead in the Mississippi Delta	Ballroom
		Paper Presentations 2: Health Programs, Evaluation, and Lessons Learned	Lewis 301
5:25 PM		Dinner on Your Own	

Thursday, July 19, 2018

Time		Event	Location
8:00 AM	9:30 AM	Delta Directions Board Meeting	Ballroom
8:30 AM	11:30 AM	Field Trip Opportunity: Innovative Initiatives in Downtown Clarksdale	Meet at the CCHEC
11:30 AM	1:00 PM	Lunch and Poster Set-up	Cutrer Lobby and Boardroom
12:00 PM	1:00 PM	Poster Session	
1:00 PM	2:15 PM	Panel 3: Healthy Students for a Better Tomorrow: Promoting Physical and Mental Well-Being in Schools	Ballroom
		Panel 4: Amplifying Delta Voices through Public Data	Lewis 301
2:15 PM	2:25 PM	Break	
2:25 PM	3:40 PM	Workshop 3: The Road to the 2020 Census: Focus on Mississippi	Ballroom
		Workshop 4: Healthy Communities: The Intersection of Community Development and Health	Lewis 301
3:40 PM	3:50 PM	Break	
3:50 PM	5:00 PM	Paper Presentations 3: Maternal and Infant Health	Ballroom
		Paper Presentations 4: Building Human Capital for Community Development	Lewis 301

Delta Regional Forum: Population Health, Development, and Entrepreneurial Problem Solving

Wednesday, July 18, 2018

Registration and Continental Breakfast	8:00 AM – 9:00 AM <i>Cutrer Lobby and Boardroom</i>
Introduction and Opening Remarks	9:00 AM – 9:30 AM <i>Ballroom</i>
Plenary Session 1: State of the Delta	9:30 AM – 10:45 AM <i>Ballroom</i>

Moderator: Lynn Woo, University of Mississippi Center for Population Studies

Panelists: Rep. Orlando Paden, Mississippi House of Representatives, D-26
Christopher Caldwell, Federal Co-Chairman, Delta Regional Authority
Susana Cervantes, Delta Directions Consortium and Mississippi State University Social
Science Research Center

Session Break	10:45 AM – 10:55 AM
Concurrent Presentations and Panel Sessions	10:55 AM – 12:10 PM
Workshop 1: Accessing Data on Children and Families: Mississippi KIDS COUNT	Ballroom

Presenters: Heather Hanna and Colleen McKee, Mississippi State University Social
Science Research Center

Panel 1: Challenges, Opportunities, and Innovations for Workforce Development and Family Economic Security

Lewis 301

Moderator: Lynn Woo, University of Mississippi Center for Population Studies

Panelists: Dennis Dupree, Jr., Tri-County Workforce Alliance
Debbie Logan, Mississippi Hospital Association
Aurelia Jones-Taylor, Aaron E. Henry Community Health Services Center, Inc.
Sannie Snell, Women and Children Health Initiatives, Inc.
Eric Dickey, Women and Children Health Initiatives, Inc. and First Missionary Baptist Church, Biloxi

Networking Lunch **12:10 PM – 1:10 PM**

Session Break **1:10 PM – 1:20 PM**

Plenary Session 2 **1:20 PM – 2:35 PM**

Delta Scholars Student Presentations

Ballroom and Lewis 301

Moderators: Susana Cervantes, Delta Directions Consortium and Mississippi State University Social Science Research Center, and Rachel Haggard, University of Mississippi Center for Population Studies

Presenters: Alyssa Bass, University of Southern Mississippi
Rachel Booth, Mississippi State University
Sarah Comino, University of Alabama
Mayukh Datta, Mississippi State University
William Fite, Mississippi State University
Jonathan Puckett, University of Southern Mississippi
Megan Swartzfager, University of Mississippi
Keturah Gadson, Harvard College
Jordan Jefferson, Jackson State University
Summer Jefferson, University of Mississippi
Trevor Ladner, Harvard College
Madison Seymour, University of Southern Mississippi
Candice Tetlow, Copiah-Lincoln Community College
Rebecca Weatherford, Samford University

Session Break **2:35 PM – 2:45 PM**

Concurrent Presentations and Panel Sessions **2:45 PM – 4:00 PM**

Workshop 2: The Future of Data Dissemination at the US Census Bureau
Ballroom

Presenter: KaNin Reese, US Census Bureau

Paper Presentations 1: Land, Food Systems, and Policy
Lewis 301

Moderator: Eleanor Green, Good Food for Oxford Schools

What's at Stake for Mississippi in the 2018 Farm Bill: A Farm Bill Law Enterprise Analysis

Nicole Negowetti, Clinical Instructor, and Kyla Kaplan and Tess Pocock, Interns,
Harvard Law School Food Law and Policy Clinic

Land Loss and Wealth Inequality in the Mississippi Delta

Nathan Rosenberg, University of Arkansas School of Law; Bryce Stucki, US Census Bureau

Perspectives from the Farm to School Network

Sunny Baker, Co-Director, Mississippi Farm to School Network

Session Break **4:00 PM – 4:10 PM**

Concurrent Presentations and Panel Sessions **4:10 PM – 5:25 PM**

Panel 2: Interdisciplinary and Community Engagement Approaches: The Case of Lead in the Mississippi Delta

Ballroom

Moderator: John J. Green, University of Mississippi Center for Population Studies

Panelists: Alex Fratesi, University of Mississippi Center for Population Studies

Dennis Dupree, Jr., Tri-County Workforce Alliance

Kristie Willett, University of Mississippi Department of BioMolecular Science

Stephanie Showalter Otts, University of Mississippi National Sea Grant Law Center

Susana Cervantes, Delta Directions Consortium and Mississippi State University Social Science Research Center

Paper Presentations 2: Health Programs, Evaluation, and Lessons Learned
Lewis 301

Moderator: Elizabeth Sweeney, University of Mississippi Center for Population Studies

The Teen Health MS and CDC Focus4Teens Initiative to Reduce Pregnancy among Mississippi Delta Teens: Results from YR1 Youth Focus Groups

Mary Read-Wahidi, Mississippi State University Social Science Research Center; Kathleen Ragsdale, Mississippi State University Social Science Research Center; Kelly Lower, Mississippi State University Social Science Research Center; Taylor Yarbrough, Mississippi State University Social Science Research Center; Emily Feher, Teen Health Mississippi; Hope Crenshaw, Teen Health Mississippi; Sara Miller, Teen Health Mississippi; Monica Coleman, Teen Health Mississippi; Patrina Williams, Teen Health Mississippi; Anna Brittain, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Heather Tevendale, CDC; Emily Koumans, CDC

Heads Up MS: Systems Development for Sports Concussion Management among Adolescents: A Population Health Concern in Mississippi

Tammy Dempsey, University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC); Michelle Goreth, UMMC; Jennifer Reneker, UMMC

An Exploration of the Impact of Implementing the USDA Cooking Matters Program in a Mississippi Delta Community

Dr. Adole Muruako, James C. Kennedy Wellness Center; Dr. Catherine W. Moring, James C. Kennedy Wellness Center, University of Mississippi Center for Population Studies; Caroline Canarios, University of Mississippi Center for Population Studies; John J. Green, University of Mississippi Center for Population Studies

Dinner on Your Own

5:25 PM

Thursday, July 19, 2018

Delta Directions Board Meeting

8:00 AM – 9:30 AM
Ballroom

Field Trip Opportunity

8:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Meet at the CCHEC

Innovative Initiatives in Downtown Clarksdale

Stop 1: Coahoma Collective

Stop 2: VR Academy

Stop 3: Meraki Roasting Co.

Lunch and Poster Set-Up

11:30 PM – 1:00 PM

Lobby

Poster Display

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Ballroom

Poster Presentations

Assessment of Perceived Food Environment in the Delta

Kymberle Gordon, University of Mississippi; Georgianna Mann, University of Mississippi; Anne Cafer, University of Mississippi; Kathy Knight, University of Mississippi

Disparities of Prostate Cancer in Mississippi and Outreach Efforts for Screening in the Mississippi Delta

Derrick Lane II, Mississippi Valley State University; Mark A. Dugo, Mississippi Valley State University; Freddie White-Johnson, Fannie Lou Hamer Cancer Foundation

State Comparisons of Breastfeeding Policies and Rates: A National Study

Erin Johnson, University of Mississippi

The Dangers of Lead Exposure in Drinking Water: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Community Engaged Research and Environmental Health Policy in the Mississippi Delta

Katrina Alford, University of Mississippi Center for Population Studies; Heather Costa-Greger, University of Mississippi Center for Population Studies; Alex Fratesi, University of Mississippi Center for Population Studies; Rachel Haggard, University of Mississippi Center for Population Studies; John J. Green, University of Mississippi Center for Population Studies; Lynn Woo, University of Mississippi Center for Population Studies; Stephanie Showalter Otts, University of Mississippi National Sea Grant Law Center; Cathy Janasie, University of Mississippi National Sea Grant Law Center; Kristie Willett, University of Mississippi Department of BioMolecular Science; Cammi Thornton,

University of Mississippi Department of BioMolecular Science; Bharathi Avula,
University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy

Concurrent Presentations and Panel Sessions

1:00 PM – 2:15 PM

**Panel 3: Healthy Students for a Better Tomorrow: Promoting Physical and
Mental Well-Being in Schools**

Lewis 301

Moderator: Susana Cervantes, Delta Directions Consortium and Mississippi State
University Social Science Research Center

Panelists: Valeria Hawkins, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Culture of Health
Leader

Aisha Carson, Sunflower County Systems Change Project and ACLU of Mississippi
Danai Winters, Student, Clarksdale High School

Panel 4: Amplifying Delta Voices through Public Data

Ballroom

Moderator: John J. Green, University of Mississippi Center for Population Studies

Panelists: Heather Hanna, Mississippi State University Social Science Research Center
Rachel Welborn, Southern Rural Development Center, Mississippi State University
Lynn Woo, University of Mississippi Center for Population Studies

Session Break

2:15 PM – 2:25 PM

Concurrent Presentations and Panel Sessions

2:25 PM – 3:40 PM

Workshop 3: The Road to the 2020 Census: Focus on Mississippi

Ballroom

Moderator: Clifford Holley, University of Mississippi Center for Population Studies and
State Data Center of Mississippi

Presenter: Marilyn A. Stephens, US Census Bureau, Atlanta Region

Workshop 4: Healthy Communities: The Intersection of Community Development and Health

Lewis 301

Presenter: Santee Ezell, Mississippi State University

Session Break **3:40 PM – 3:50 PM**

Concurrent Presentations and Panel Sessions **3:50 PM – 5:00 PM**

Paper Presentations 3: Maternal and Infant Health

Ballroom

Moderator: Elizabeth Sweeney, University of Mississippi Center for Population Studies

Connecting the Hospital Neonatal Intensive Care Unit with Community Health Centers to Provide Breastfeeding Support to Vulnerable Babies

John J. Green, University of Mississippi Center for Population Studies; David Allen III, University of Mississippi Center for Population Studies and Department of Pharmacy Administration; Mobolaji Famuyide, University of Mississippi Medical Center Division of Newborn Medicine; Jamie Ford, University of Mississippi Medical Center Division of Newborn Medicine; Sannie Snell, Women and Children Health Initiatives, Inc.; John Bentley, University of Mississippi Department of Pharmacy Administration

Maternity Village Coop Study

Chelesa Presley, Tougaloo College/HealthPartners Healthy Start Initiative

A Multimethod Analysis Assessing How Presumptive Eligibility Policy May Benefit Birth Outcomes

Rachel Haggard, University of Mississippi Center for Population Studies; John J. Green, University of Mississippi Center for Population Studies; Wengora Thompson, March of Dimes

Paper Presentations 4: Building Human Capital for Community Development

Lewis 301

Moderator: Lynn Woo, University of Mississippi Center for Population Studies

"Increasing Education.....Increasing Success"

Lakisha L. Butler, Delta State University/Delta Educational Opportunity Center

Cumulative Spatial Disadvantage and the Role of Human and Social Capital: A Spatial Analysis of Income and Poverty in the Multi-State Delta

Katrina Alford, University of Mississippi Center for Population Studies

Improving Community Outreach and Engagement: A Role for Community Health Advocates

Tammy Dempsey, University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) Office of Academic Affairs; Debbie Minor, UMMC School of Medicine; Penny Rogers, UMMC School of Health Related Professions; Josie Bidwell, UMMC School of Nursing; Lisa Haynie, UMMC School of Nursing; Rick deShazo, UMMC School of Medicine; Alan Penman, UMMC School of Population Health

Appendix
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Abstracts

Presentations

What's at Stake for Mississippi in the 2018 Farm Bill: A Farm Bill Law Enterprise Analysis

Nicole Negowetti, Clinical Instructor, and Kyla Kaplan and Tess Pocock, Interns, Harvard Law School Food Law and Policy Clinic

The farm bill is a complex piece of legislation that impacts nearly every aspect of the American food and agricultural systems. The farm bill reauthorization process, which occurs every five years, is currently underway in Congress. Harvard Law School Food Law and Policy Clinic (FLPC) founded and leads the Farm Bill Law Enterprise (FBLE), a national partnership of six law schools, comprised of academic and clinical expertise in food, nutrition, and environmental law. This presentation will provide an overview of FBLE's initiatives and its recommendations to ensure a 2018 Farm Bill thoughtfully considers the long-term needs of our society, including economic opportunity and stability, public health and nutrition, public resources stewardship, and fair access and equal protection. The presentation will also provide an overview of key provisions in the proposed House and Senate drafts, and highlight the reasons all Mississippians should care about this important piece of legislation.

Land Loss and Wealth Inequality in the Mississippi Delta

Nathan Rosenberg, University of Arkansas School of Law; Bryce Stucki, US Census Bureau

Systematic discrimination against black farmers resulted in massive land loss and the disappearance of the largest source of wealth for black families prior to the Civil Rights era. A growing body of historical research has documented this process, yet there has been scant research on the economic affects of black land loss. In an analysis of federal data, this article finds that the land black families lost would be worth between \$45 and \$92 billion today, an amount that would double the wealth held by between 45 and 50% of black households. Since gifts and inheritances are by far the most important source of wealth transfers, this loss has reverberated down the generations, exacerbated by continued disparities in agricultural policy. This article examines black land loss in the Mississippi Delta, estimates its impact on black wealth in the region, and suggests policy responses to the twin problems of land loss and wealth inequality.

Perspectives from the Farm to School Network

Sunny Baker, Co-Director, Mississippi Farm to School Network

The Mississippi Farm to School Network works to connect farmers with schools in order to bring Mississippi products to school cafeterias. We seek to strengthen the local agricultural economy and educate Mississippians on the importance of eating locally-grown, nutritionally-dense foods. By gathering a diverse community of farm to school advocates, the network strives to reach all students and their families. This presentation will provide a brief introduction to the benefits of farm to school, highlighting the network's recent successes and its vision for the future.

The Teen Health MS and CDC Focus4Teens Initiative to Reduce Pregnancy among Mississippi Delta Teens: Results from YR1 Youth Focus Groups

Mary Read-Wahidi, Mississippi State University Social Science Research Center; Kathleen Ragsdale, Mississippi State University Social Science Research Center; Kelly Lower, Mississippi State University Social Science Research Center; Taylor Yarbrough, Mississippi State University Social Science Research Center; Emily Feher, Teen Health Mississippi; Hope Crenshaw, Teen Health Mississippi; Sara Miller, Teen Health Mississippi; Monica Coleman, Teen Health Mississippi; Patrina Williams, Teen Health Mississippi; Anna Brittain, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); Heather Tevendale, CDC; Emily Koumans, CDC

The national teen birth rate is 20:1,000, compared to 33:1,000 for Mississippi, and 58:1,000 for the Mississippi Delta counties of Coahoma, Quitman, and Tunica (MSDH, 2016). Focus4Teens is a CDC-funded initiative to reduce teen pregnancy in these counties. We conducted Focus Group Discussions (FGD) among Mississippi Delta youth to assess barriers to seeking sexual and reproductive health services (SRHS), preferred attributes of health care providers (HCP), contraception knowledge, and parent/teen SRH communications. Thirty-five 14-19 year olds (97% African American, 77% female) participated in three FGD. Barriers to seeking SRHS included teens' lack of: 1) confidence that—in communities where “everybody knows everybody”—HCP will maintain teens' privacy/confidentiality, 2) knowledge of rights to SRHS without parental consent, 3) contraception knowledge, and 4) positive parent/teen SRH communications. Results reinforce need for coordinated teen pregnancy prevention efforts between schools, parents, youth-serving organizations, and HCP to link teens to SRHS.

Heads Up MS: Systems Development for Sports Concussion Management among Adolescents: A Population Health Concern in Mississippi

Tammy Dempsey, University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC); Michelle Goreth, UMMC; Jennifer Reneker, UMMC

This oral presentation will introduce sports-related concussion as a population health concern in the state of Mississippi. Presenters will discuss issues related to traumatic injury for adolescents. Audience will be updated on current legislation guiding injured play, one of the least restrictive in the nation, putting athletes at greater risk. We will introduce the Heads Up Mississippi campaign, a community engaged work group advocating the development of a statewide system for concussion management. We will highlight current activities and will provide an opportunity for forum participants to become involved with project activities going forward. Some of the on-going activities to be highlighted include: 1. Sport concussion prevention programming for

parents, athletes, coaches and others 2. Continuing education for licensed health providers regarding concussion prevention, identification, and management 3. Access to concussion management for all Mississippians (via direct care and telehealth) 4. Development of a statewide surveillance system for concussion.

An Exploration of the Impact of Implementing the USDA Cooking Matters Program in a Mississippi Delta Community

Dr. Adole Muruako, James C. Kennedy Wellness Center; Dr. Catherine W. Moring, James C. Kennedy Wellness Center, University of Mississippi Center for Population Studies; Caroline Canarios, University of Mississippi Center for Population Studies; John J. Green, University of Mississippi Center for Population Studies

The James C. Kennedy Wellness Center has been implementing the evidenced-based Cooking Matters (CM) curriculum since 2015. To date, ten cohorts have been completed with 119 participants. CM is a free six-week cooking class geared toward teaching individuals and families how to grocery shop efficiently as well as how to meal plan, exploring the nutritional content and impact of consuming common foods and drinks with high-fat and high-sugar content and how to cook healthy, affordable, and delicious meals. Following the course, the majority of respondents indicated significant behavior change across several areas including fruit and vegetable consumption, whole grain and low-sodium options, lean meats and non-fried proteins. Additionally, respondents indicated a decrease in “unhealthy” behaviors, including eating fried foods, drinking soda, and consuming meals from restaurants. Respondents also reported cooking more frequently and significantly changed perceptions about cooking attitudes. CM is an effective program and can be implemented in rural communities.

Connecting the Hospital Neonatal Intensive Care Unit with Community Health Centers to Provide Breastfeeding Support to Vulnerable Babies

John J. Green, University of Mississippi Center for Population Studies; David Allen III, University of Mississippi Center for Population Studies and Department of Pharmacy Administration; Mobolaji Famuyide, University of Mississippi Medical Center Division of Newborn Medicine; Jamie Ford, University of Mississippi Medical Center Division of Newborn Medicine; Sannie Snell, Women and Children Health Initiatives, Inc., John Bentley, University of Mississippi Department of Pharmacy Administration

Babies born early often face developmental challenges, and maternal breast milk may be particularly important to their health. However, vulnerable families face socioeconomic challenges that may influence breastfeeding. To address these challenges, the Right! From the Start (R!FTS) Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) Breastfeeding Initiative supports breastfeeding for mothers with low birthweight babies from the Mississippi Delta region hospitalized at a Jackson-area neonatal intensive care unit. Additionally, R!FTS engages community health centers to link clinical care with community support. This intervention was informed by analysis of vital statistics, community focus groups, interviews with 32 mothers at high-risk clinics, and 55 mothers seeking care in rural communities. Now operational with 27 mothers (93% African American) and 28 babies (26% small for gestational age) born less than

2700 grams enrolled, this data-driven initiative is testing strategies for care and support across the rural-urban continuum. The presentation will include a summary review of the program and the characteristics of participants enrolled to-date.

Maternity Village Coop Study

Chelesa Presley, Tougaloo College/ HealthPartners Healthy Start Initiative

The mission of this project is to identify and clarify the needs of pregnant and new mothers who are facing housing insecurities in the Mississippi Delta. The goal is to provide a physical place (village) that addresses gaps in services and protection for new mothers and their babies during the fourth trimester. This village would give new mothers time to heal and give their babies a healthy start by encouraging birth equity, breastfeeding, healthy relationships, family planning, and the achievement of educational or vocational goals. This project is based on the experience of a Community Health Worker currently working in the Mississippi Delta.

A Multimethod Analysis Assessing How Presumptive Eligibility Policy May Benefit Birth Outcomes

Rachel Haggard, University of Mississippi Center for Population Studies; John J. Green, University of Mississippi Center for Population Studies; Wengora Thompson, March of Dimes

Approximately 64% of Mississippi births are covered by Medicaid. However, prenatal care may be delayed until a woman knows she is pregnant and can be enrolled in Medicaid. The process of enrolling can take several weeks, putting the mother at a disadvantage for receiving prompt medical care in the first trimester of pregnancy. Presumptive eligibility allows states the option to provide prenatal care for uninsured pregnant women presuming they are eligible for Medicaid and will be enrolled. Thirty states utilize presumptive eligibility policy, but Mississippi does not. Research has shown that access to prenatal care during the interim enrollment period results in better birth outcomes, especially relating to preterm low-weight births. This paper assesses how presumptive eligibility may improve birth outcomes by conducting a systematic literature review that analyzes the extant research on presumptive eligibility and making a state-level comparison on how this policy associates with state-level birth outcomes.

"Increasing Education.....Increasing Success"

Lakisha L. Butler, Delta State University/Delta Educational Opportunity Center

Delta Educational Opportunity Center (DEOC) is a federal TRIO program designed to increase the number of adult participants, ages 19 and older, who enroll in postsecondary education institutions by providing services to 1,000 participants in 12 Delta counties. TRIO is a series of educational support programs that emerged in 1964 as a result of former President Lyndon B. Johnson's War on Poverty legislation. As there were initially three programs, Upward Bound, Talent Search, and Student Support Services, the name TRIO was coined. DEOC provides counsel and instruction on secondary education completion, financial planning skills, college admissions, career opportunities, and more. DEOC also provides services to residents younger

than 19 who cannot be adequately served by a Talent Search project, another federal TRIO program designed to assist middle school and high school students pursue a postsecondary education. Presentation will include a power point outlining history, objectives, services, and eligibility requirements of DEOC. Audience will also be provided with take-away materials.

Cumulative Spatial Disadvantage and the Role of Human and Social Capital: A Spatial Analysis of Income and Poverty in the Multi-State Delta

Katrina Alford, University of Mississippi Center for Population Studies

Understanding how space impacts development is crucial when examining inequalities. Uneven development further highlights disparities in power that are rooted in spatial design and relations. Geography and history have long-term influences on development, yet are not easily changeable within a community. There are, however, locally-modifiable characteristics, like human and social capital, that can be cultivated to increase a community's agency, even in the face of disadvantage. This study takes a spatially-oriented approach to sociology to evaluate income and poverty when accounting for geographical, historical, and locally-modifiable characteristics. By analyzing secondary data using OLS linear regression, I identify patterns regarding income and poverty as they relate to spatial disadvantage and locally-modifiable community capitals at the county level in the multi-state Delta. By identifying these characteristics and their relationships to space, I hope to equip leaders with the tools necessary to inform efforts to achieve better quality of life in their communities.

Improving Community Outreach and Engagement: A Role for Community Health Advocates

Tammy Dempsey, University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) Office of Academic Affairs; Debbie Minor, UMMC School of Medicine; Penny Rogers, UMMC School of Health Related Professions; Josie Bidwell, UMMC School of Nursing; Lisa Haynie, UMMC School of Nursing; Rick deShazo, UMMC School of Medicine; Alan Penman, UMMC School of Population Health

Over the past 30 years Mississippi has experienced an epidemic of obesity, type 2 diabetes (T2D), hypertension (HT), and end-stage renal disease; low-income, medically underserved groups are disproportionately affected. Early screening and referral to health professionals for formal diagnosis and treatment could prevent complications. The state, however, has one of the lowest ratios of health professionals per capita in the US. Since it is unlikely that adequate numbers of formally trained health professionals will be available in the near future to address this epidemic, the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) Community Health Advocate Training Program was developed as a community-based program to train lay individuals to screen populations for obesity, T2D, and HT. Since its inception in 2011, over 2,500 individuals from churches, civic organizations, and other groups across the state have been trained. Here we review the development of the program and explore possible future directions.

Panel Sessions

State of the Delta

Rep. Orlando Paden, Mississippi House of Representatives, D-26
Christopher Caldwell, Federal Co-Chairman, Delta Regional Authority
Susana Cervantes, Delta Directions Consortium and Mississippi State University Social Science Research Center

Panelists will discuss the most pressing issues facing the Delta today, recent community successes, and what they are doing to create positive change in the region.

Challenges, Opportunities, and Innovations for Workforce Development and Family Economic Security

Dennis Dupree, Jr., Tri-County Workforce Alliance; Debbie Logan, Mississippi Hospital Association; Aurelia Jones-Taylor, Aaron E. Henry Community Health Services Center, Inc.; Sannie Snell, Women and Children Health Initiatives, Inc.; Eric Dickey, Women and Children Health Initiatives, Inc. and First Missionary Baptist Church, Biloxi

A major focus of many regional economic development efforts is education and workforce development. Individuals and families need access to jobs that will provide a living wage and benefits, yet they need to be adequately prepared for these positions. At the same time, employers want to attract and retain talent. However, many communities across the rural-urban continuum have struggled economically and have limited employment options, leading to challenges for potential workers trying to determine what jobs to prepare for and the pathways for doing so. Innovative strategies are needed to better inform and integrate education, workforce development, business attraction and retention, and entrepreneurship programs. This panel will explore two such efforts: the New Pathways to Health and Opportunity Initiative and the Workforce Development in East Biloxi and Sunflower County Project. Participants will provide background data, tell the stories of their collective efforts, share lessons learned, and offer recommendations for using community building and organizing strategies to help families prepare for greater economic security.

Interdisciplinary and Community Engagement Approaches: The Case of Lead in the Mississippi Delta

Alex Fratesi, University of Mississippi Center for Population Studies; Dennis Dupree, Jr., Tri-County Workforce Alliance; Kristie Willett, University of Mississippi Department of BioMolecular Science; Stephanie Showalter Otts, University of Mississippi National Sea Grant Law Center; Susana Cervantes, Delta Directions Consortium and Mississippi State University Social Science Research Center

Environmental health issues are complex and require interdisciplinary and community engagement approaches to better understand them and inform policy. As one example, lead

exposure has a number of dangerous neurological effects, including developmental delays and learning deficits. Potential lead exposure through drinking water and paint are areas of concern. Community-engaged research can be used to connect residents, their local organizations, and researchers to address lead exposure. This project aims to implement and evaluate methods of outreach, research, and education to monitor and reduce lead exposure in drinking water. Operating primarily within the Mississippi Delta, partners have worked with community organizational leaders to engage their constituencies around lead. The panel members will discuss the framework, strategies, and findings from this study, combined with attention to using these approaches to inform more effective environmental health policies.

Healthy Students for a Better Tomorrow: Promoting Physical and Mental Well-Being in Schools

Valeria Hawkins, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Culture of Health Leader; Aisha Carson, Sunflower County Systems Change Project and ACLU of Mississippi; Danai Winters, Student, Clarksdale High School

Research shows that healthier students are better learners--they are more likely to attend school and better able to focus in class and perform well on tests. Academic success can also be impacted by factors like whether students feel safe in school, and how adults respond to perceived misbehavior. Unfortunately, school can be an alienating place for many students—a recent national survey of 5th through 12th graders found that only 59% reported feeling safe at school. This panel will explore some of the many ways that educators, community members, and policymakers can come together to produce better student outcomes in the Delta by supporting health and well-being in schools. Panelists on the panel will speak to a range of topics impacting physical and mental health such as nutrition and physical education, bullying, trauma-sensitivity, supportive school discipline, mental health and wraparound services, and environmental safety.

Amplifying Delta Voices through Public Data

Heather Hanna, Mississippi State University Social Science Research Center; Rachel Welborn, Southern Rural Development Center, Mississippi State University; Lynn Woo, University of Mississippi Center for Population Studies

Data matter for development. Government agencies, businesses, and non-governmental organizations sometimes use data about people and the places where they live to characterize, categorize, and analyze what has happened in the past, current situations, and potential future pathways. Organizational leaders use demographic and socioeconomic data to make the case for investments in development. With rapid increases in the use of computers and the Internet coupled with expanded computational power, data have proliferated exponentially in the so-called “digital” and “big data” era. Not only are more data being collected and stored, there is an increase in the requirements for reporting and utilizing data to inform development decisions. This includes demands for evidence-based practice and data-driven policies. Within this context, the panel will focus on efforts to engage community and regional development practitioners and researchers with publicly available data sources. The speakers will discuss future efforts planned to increase participation rates for the 2020 Census, thereby “amplifying” Delta voices.

Workshop Sessions

Delta Scholars Student Presentations

Alyssa Bass, University of Southern Mississippi; Rachel Booth, Mississippi State University; Sarah Comino, University of Alabama; Mayukh Datta, Mississippi State University; William Fite, Mississippi State University; Jonathan Puckett, University of Southern Mississippi; Megan Swartzfager, University of Mississippi; Keturah Gadson, Harvard College; Jordan Jefferson, Jackson State University; Summer Jefferson, University of Mississippi; Trevor Ladner, Harvard College; Madison Seymour, University of Southern Mississippi; Candice Tetlow, Copiah-Lincoln Community College; Rebecca Weatherford, Samford University

Delta Scholars is a new program that aims to train a cohort of young leaders to think critically about issues of systemic justice affecting Mississippi and to support them in developing solutions that will produce positive social change in their communities and the state at large. The Delta Scholars—14 undergraduate students from across the state of Mississippi and Harvard College-- have spent the last nine days working on campus at the Mississippi State Honors College in Starkville and then touring the Delta. They have met with academics, community leaders, and non-profit organizers working towards positive social change in the Delta, and they have taken inspiration from these examples to develop ideas for social change projects that they can implement in their own communities. During this workshop, students will present their project proposals and solicit questions, suggestions, and feedback from audience participants.

Accessing Data on Children and Families: Mississippi KIDS COUNT

Heather Hanna and Colleen McKee, Mississippi State University Social Science Research Center

When it comes to the economic, educational and health status of children, families and communities, have you ever wondered if what you are seeing and hearing anecdotally in your work is substantiated by data? Have you wondered how your county compares to others across the state? How your state compares to others across the nation? Do you often wish you had data to support your proposals, reports, and policy recommendations? This workshop will acquaint you with the work of Mississippi KIDS COUNT and show you how to access and incorporate data about children and families into your work.

The Road to the 2020 Census: Focus on Mississippi

Marilyn A. Stephens, US Census Bureau

In 2012, the Census Bureau realigned its field operation. As a result, six regions were closed and those states were distributed among the remaining six regions. The Atlanta Region grew from three states to seven states, including the state of Mississippi. The 2020 Census will mark the first time the Atlanta Region has administered the decennial operation in Mississippi. Increasing the participation rate in a decennial is always the goal. To this end, the Atlanta Region has met with several local governments in the Mississippi Delta to provide them with an overview of the

2020 Census and to assist them in organizing Complete Count Committees for a successful enumeration. The key to increasing participation rates is local involvement at every level of the process. The Mississippi Delta is a priority for the Atlanta Region.

The Future of Data Dissemination at the US Census Bureau

KaNin Reese, US Census Bureau

The Census Bureau is establishing a new paradigm in data dissemination, one where data users will no longer need to know which tools to use on www.census.gov. Instead, they will simply start searching to find statistics, maps, web pages, and the other great Census Bureau products they need. In this session, participants will learn about the history of data dissemination at the Census Bureau and about the new platform, currently known as data.census.gov, designed as a preview for customers to provide feedback. In addition to a live demonstration of the preview platform, attendees will get a look at upcoming features and learn about the ways that Census.gov will change more broadly once the new search platform is migrated into the website.

Healthy Communities: The Intersection of Community Development and Health

Santee Ezell, Mississippi State University

Healthy Communities is the space in which the community development, economic development, public health, and health care industries collaborate to reduce persistent health inequalities and create healthier communities for all. While access to health care is one component that explains these disparities, the social determinants of health - where people work, live, learn and play - can play a significant role as well. The more opportunities individuals have to make healthy choices, the more likely they can live longer and healthier lives. These social determinants of health are the nexus of the community development and health sector's joint interests. It is in this space that collaboration is imperative. And the health of our country and economy depend on it: in general, wealthier people are healthier, and healthier people are more economically productive.

Posters

Assessment of Perceived Food Environment in the Delta

Kymberle Gordon, University of Mississippi; Georgianna Mann, University of Mississippi; Anne Cafer, University of Mississippi; Kathy Knight, University of Mississippi

Relationships between food environment and dietary intake patterns are often objectively measured, but individuals' perception of their food environment may provide more specific data. This study utilized the Perceived Nutrition Environment Measures Survey to assess Quitman county residents' perceptions of food environment. Surveys were administered to a convenience sample of adults aged 18-86 (n=104) at the local food pantry, fitness center, and career fair. Descriptive statistical analysis was used to measure respondents' perceived importance of

nutrition, as well as perceived accessibility, quality, and cost of fresh fruit and vegetables in their neighborhood. Results showed 70% of respondents perceived nutrition as very important, 69% perceived accessibility was low, 58% perceived quality was very poor, and 54% perceived cost was somewhat expensive. These findings, along with objective measures of accessibility, cost, and quality of produce in this community, will further understanding of the relationship between food environment and dietary intake.

Disparities of Prostate Cancer in Mississippi and Outreach Efforts for Screening in the MS Delta

Derrick Lane II, Mississippi Valley State University; Mark A. Dugo, Mississippi Valley State University; Freddie White-Johnson, Fannie Lou Hamer Cancer Foundation

Prostate cancer is the third leading cause of cancer mortality in the United States and is the most frequently diagnosed cancer among men. To assess trends of incidence and mortality for prostate cancer and compare Mississippi statistics with national trends, we accessed data spanning 2000-2014 from the National Cancer Institute's Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) program and the Mississippi Cancer Registry. The data revealed that incidence and mortality rates in Mississippi exceed national rates, due to higher rates among African American men, which are ultimately driving Mississippi's rates to exceed national trends. Data from the Mississippi Cancer Registry show that prostate cancer mortality among African American men clusters in the Mississippi Delta. These trends reinforce the importance of the Fannie Lou Hamer Cancer Foundation's (FLHCF) efforts towards cancer outreach and early detection in the MS Delta. In 2017, the FLHCF assisted 360 men with prostate screenings.

State Comparisons of Breastfeeding Policies and Rates: A National Study

Erin Johnson, University of Mississippi

State policies focused on promoting and supporting breastfeeding are relatively new, starting in the 1990s. There has been an effort to increase breastfeeding rates in the United State from Healthy People 2020 Initiative, Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative, and private foundations. The purpose of this study is to determine if there is a correlation between state breastfeeding rates and state breastfeeding policies. The number of baby-friendly hospitals, number of foundation grants, and available information on local coalitions are also being considered. Breastfeeding rates based on births from 2004 to 2013 have been collected for each state, graphed individually, and compared to the national rate and Healthy People 2020 Goal. Five state breastfeeding policy indicators have been selected in order to compare one state's policy to another. This study seeks to highlight the effects of state breastfeeding policies, initiatives, and foundations on breastfeeding rates.

The Dangers of Lead Exposure in Drinking Water: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Community Engaged Research and Environmental Health Policy in the Mississippi Delta

Katrina Alford, University of Mississippi Center for Population Studies; Heather Costa-Greger, University of Mississippi Center for Population Studies; Alex Fratesi, University of Mississippi

Center for Population Studies; Rachel Haggard, University of Mississippi Center for Population Studies; John J. Green, University of Mississippi Center for Population Studies; Lynn Woo, University of Mississippi Center for Population Studies; Stephanie Showalter Otts, University of Mississippi National Sea Grant Law Center; Cathy Janasie, University of Mississippi National Sea Grant Law Center; Kristie Willett, University of Mississippi Department of BioMolecular Science; Cammi Thornton, University of Mississippi Department of BioMolecular Science; Bharathi Avula, University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy

Environmental health issues are complex and require interdisciplinary and community engagement approaches to better understand them and inform policy. For example, lead exposure has a number of dangerous neurological effects, including developmental delays and learning deficits. As seen in communities such as Flint, Michigan, and Jackson, Mississippi, lead exposure through drinking water and paint are areas of concern. Community engaged research can be used to connect residents, their local organizations, and researchers to address lead exposure. Operating primarily within the Mississippi Delta, partners have worked with community organizational leaders, most recently with local health clinics, to engage their constituencies around lead. This poster presents the most recent findings regarding our survey and water collection data from health clinics throughout the state, including Aaron E. Henry Community Health Centers in Batesville and Tunica, and Delta Health Centers in Greenville.

Field Trip Sites

Coahoma Collective

Coahoma Collective is a new nonprofit that is catalyzing arts-driven, community-inclusive revitalization in downtown Clarksdale, Mississippi. In its first year, Coahoma Collective is sponsoring the launch of an artist-owned garden center and general store, and is developing a 20-room, artist-run hotel that will create jobs, facilitate community creativity, and expand existing tourism in the region. Participants are invited to tour Collective Seed & Supply Co. (the “Collective,” located at 145 Delta Ave.) to meet the artist/owners and tour the retail/garden center, community meeting areas, and performance/maker spaces (much of which is still in progress!), and to view a floor plan of the future Travelers Hotel, which will open in early 2019.

VR Academy

Participants will get an introduction to Virtual Reality by wearing high-end VR Head Mounted Displays and experiencing VR first-hand. They will then get a demonstration of the tools and processes used to develop VR experiences. Local students currently enrolled in the VR Academy will be on hand to show their work.

Meraki Roasting Co.

Meraki Roasting Co. is a program of Griot Arts, a non-profit organization with a mission to create a community of students who are actively engaged in making their community a better place through the arts and community service. Every day ambitious young people come to work at Meraki Coffee to learn to roast coffee while building skills that will help them come closer to

finding their God-given calling. While we are making excellent coffee, we teach young people in Clarksdale what it means to work with the Meraki ideals: to put soul, creativity, and love into their work. Visitors to Meraki will have the chance to learn about more about the program while trying our small-batch, freshly roasted coffee and exploring a variety of other products from local producers and artists.