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THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT GREENSBORO

December 6, 2007

INFORMATION ITEM:

TRIAD Center for Health Disparities, Coordinated by School of Nursing

Presentation by Dr. Debra Wallace, Associate Dean for Research and Daphine Doster Mastroianni Distinguished Professor, School of Nursing

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The overarching goal of the Teamwork in Research and Intervention to Alleviate Disparities (TRIAD) EXPORT Center is to assist the community, region and state in meeting the critical health needs of a rapidly increasing and diverse citizenry through health disparities research, training and community outreach.

We will conduct interventions studies, training, outreach projects, and develop or enhance/expand community partnership to address major health disparities of African-Americans, Hispanics, rural and low income children and adults in central North Carolina. The focus is on early detection and prevention of cardiovascular disease, HIV/AIDS and diabetes, and those related risk factors and complications.

Our specific aims are to:

1. Increase the number and capabilities of health disparity researchers who are from ethnic or racial minorities and female gender who focus on interventions and methodologies with African Americans, Hispanics, rural and low income populations.
2. Enhance the infrastructure for interdisciplinary health disparity research focused on developing and testing interventions and methodologies to prevent risk behaviors and improve self-management of health problems in high priority areas of cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and HIV/AIDS and related risk factors, among African Americans, Hispanics, and rural and low income persons.
3. Expand involvement of the community in research through nurturing partnerships with health systems, community agencies, lay and professional organizations whose efforts are directed toward alleviating health disparities in African Americans, Hispanics, and rural and low income persons.
4. Disseminate information on health disparities research to consumers, providers, communities and other constituencies.
Our aims and foci are consistent with the strategic plans of the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, the National Institute of Nursing Research, the National Institute on Diabetic, Digestive and Kidney Disorders, NIAID, and the NIH Strategic Plan to Reduce and Ultimately Eliminate Health Disparities, and the Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) standards and requirements. They address targets from Healthy People 2010 and the US Surgeon General’s Eliminating Racial and Ethnic Disparities, and the Unequal Treatment: Confronting Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Healthcare from the Institute of Medicine (2003).

This is a collaborative project between the UNCG Schools of Nursing, Health and Human Performance, Human Environmental Sciences, Education, College of Arts and Sciences, the Center for Biotechnology, Genomics and Health Research, Center for Youth, Family and Community Partnerships, Center for the Health of Vulnerable Populations, and school systems, church groups, free clinics, the Moses Cone Congregational Nurse program, North Carolina Central University, and private medical practice. In addition, a national expert committee and local community members advise the center and keep the stakeholder communities informed of activities.

Of particular interest to UNCG is consistency with the strategic plan: To meet the ever changing diversity and needs of the greater Triad community and the Areas of Research Emphasis: human diversity and culture and health and the life sciences. In addition, University goals specific to this Center are to:

1. Be the triad’s leading public research university, with more than $50 million a year in external funding.
2. Be a university that reflects and embraces the changing diversity of North Carolina and the region.
3. Be a leader in community partnerships.
4. Be a leader in economic, cultural, and social development in the Piedmont Triad community partnerships. (UNCG 2008 Profile, Chancellor’s report)

The Center is funded by the National Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities at the National Institutes of Health and will provide more than $6.6M over the five-year period. (1P20MD002289)

Please contact Dr. Wallace if you have questions or need further information at 336-256-0572.

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