Hey Community Engagers,

Join me in welcoming a couple new faces to our PACT family. Ms. Thelma Craig is our newest PACT Council member, filling the seat vacated by Dr. Tim Byers. Ms. Craig first introduced herself to PACT colleagues at the CCTSI Community Engagement Research Exchange & Networking Forum on April 12th, and we’re looking forward to having her voice among us. Likewise, we’re excited that Mr. Robert McGranaghan joined the Community Engagement core as our newest Community Liaison, who will work actively in surrounding Aurora neighborhoods to strengthen relationships with the University of Colorado Denver and develop collaborative projects. During his first weeks here, he dove into orienting himself and meeting people in and around Aurora and Denver.

A date to put on your summer calendar is August 23-24, 2012, to attend the National Community Engagement Conference (Bethesda, Maryland). Our PACT Council Chair, Dr. Larry Green, will be a speaker! See conference information at: https://www.dtmi.duke.edu/ce-workshop.

American Heart Association Seeks Clinical Applications
Community Liaison Leslie Wright thought this might be of interest to many of you ... Did you know that all AHA research programs are open to clinical investigators? And the AHA's Clinical Research Program is designed specifically to encourage early career investigators. AHA's peer review network includes clinical review panels and reviewers who are qualified to evaluate clinical, translational and population based studies. Last year, only 12% of applications submitted to AHA were clinically focused. For AHA to reach its goal of funding more clinical research, clinical investigators are encouraged to submit more applications! The overall success rates were 18% during the past year. For more details and to see the July deadlines, please visit AHA’s Funding Opportunities page.

Good news from Debbi Main...
The PACT pilot grants manuscript entitled "A Community Translational Research Pilot Grants Program to Facilitate Community-Academic Partnerships: Lessons from Colorado's CTSA" was accepted for the upcoming special issue, "The Science of Community Engagement” targeted to come out August 2012 in Progress in Community Health Partnerships: Research, Education, and Action. Says Debbi, "Thanks to everyone for your help with this, in particular to you, Kady [Nearing], for helping me respond to the two rounds of reviews!" Be sure to watch for the article.
AAMC Suggests Enhancements to NIH Clinical and Translational Science Awards

In an April 6 comment letter, the Association of American Medical Colleges recommended NIH create new incentives for developing networks within institutions that receive Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSAs), including community-based medical schools and other organizations. This recommendation was among several made by AAMC in response to a request for information from the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) on ways to enhance the CTSA program. The complete story is at: https://www.aamc.org/advocacy/washhigh/highlights2012/279320/aamcsuggestsenhancementstonihclinicalandtranslationalscienceawa.html

Getting to Know You...PACT Council Member, Ms. Thelma Craig

Ms. Thelma Craig currently is the Project Administrator for the HIV Care and Treatment Programs at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. She has served over 25 years in Public Health as Health Educator, Disease Control Specialist, Research Analyst, and Contract Monitor at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Prevention and Care Programs, and she has worked on various Public Health projects for the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Disease Control Division. Ms. Craig has a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from Clark Atlanta University. She has received training and certifications in STD Interventions, US Department of Health and Human Services Center for Disease Control (CDC) – Application of Biostatistics and Epidemiology to Program Planning, Assessment and Evaluation, The University of Oklahoma Health Science Center, College of Public Health, coursework – Principles of Epidemiology, CDC; Current Master of Divinity Student in Pastoral Counseling, Denver Seminary. She has over 25 years of experience serving in community organizations as Health Educator/Public Speaker. Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Colorado Black Health Collaborative. Serves on the Planning Council for the Public Health Academy, member of the Regional Health Equity Council, Office of Minority Health. She has served on various community coalitions in Board of Director capacity, member, and volunteer. She is a writer/cultural commentator. She believes that “It Takes a Village.” Her passion is family and community health. She reads, bikes, and hikes in her free time.

Community Liaison, Mr. Robert McGranaghan

Effective April, 2012, Robert is a new Community Liaison for the Community Engagement Core of the Colorado Clinical &Translational Sciences Institute, based at UC Denver in the Department of Family Medicine. In that capacity, Robert will be working to develop relationships and new collaborative research opportunities with and between the Anschutz Medical Campus and communities in Aurora. Prior to moving to Denver in 2012, Robert served as the Manager of the Detroit Community-Academic Urban Research Center (Detroit URC) since its inception in 1995, and was based at the University of Michigan School of Public Health. The Detroit URC is a community-based participatory research (CBPR) partnership conducting research and interventions to reduce and ultimately eliminate health inequities in the city of Detroit. He has a bachelor’s degree in marketing from Penn State University, and a master’s in public health in community health education from Temple University in Philadelphia. Robert has developed, implemented, evaluated, and disseminated community and worksite-based health education interventions and CBPR partnership activities for nearly 30 years and has served as project director on several major interdisciplinary grants sponsored by
federal and state agencies, and involving individuals from multiple disciplines and diverse communities in Philadelphia, PA, the California Bay Area and Detroit, MI. He was actively involved in the CDC/ASPH-funded national project “Examining Community-Institutional Partnerships for Prevention Research,” during which he provided leadership in the development of an evidence-based training curriculum on CBPR and subsequently presented the curriculum at professional meetings and learning institutes across the country. Robert is a co-author of the instructional CD-ROM “Community-Based Participatory Research: A Partnership Approach for Public Health,” and is a founding and active member of the Community-Based Public Health Caucus of the American Public Health Association. Robert also served as an Adjunct Lecturer at the University of Michigan School of Public Health where he taught a course on budgeting for health education programs for the graduate students in the department of health behavior and health education. He was born and raised in the Philadelphia suburb of Bucks County, PA, and is thrilled to be newly transplanted to beautiful Colorado!

Have a great weekend!
Jack Westfall