An interdisciplinary, interprofessional conference

Moving Toward Health Equity
Biennial Diversity and Inclusion Conference

March 25, 2022
In conjunction with the
Bill Burian University-Community Lecture Series

Western Michigan University
College of Health and Human Services
Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
8:15 a.m. Registration

8:45 a.m. Smudge Ceremony and Land Acknowledgement
Paul Syrette, Elder, First Nations Ojibwe

9:00 a.m. A Conversation with Dr. Deirdre Cooper-Owens
Facilitated by Dr. Betty Dennis, Director, CHHS Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

10:15 a.m. Student Perspectives on DEI Issues in CHHS

11:30 a.m. Interprofessional Education Presentation

12:30 p.m. Breakout - So What? Now What?
Dr. Carla Chase, Interim Associate Dean, College of Health and Human Services

THANK YOU TO OUR PANELISTS

Student Perspectives on DEI Issues in CHHS
Moderated by Rachael Koeson, graduate student, WMU School of Social Work

- Victoria Sarai Simmons
- Molly Jean Perski
- Megan Beth Gailliard
- T’Laina Donaldson
- Jaylin Key

Interprofessional Education Presentation
Moderated by Dr. Yvonne Jackson, WMU Department of Physical Therapy

- Cradle Kalamazoo
  Dr. Kathleen Kotari, Dr. Cheryl Dickson and Dr. Grace Lubwama

- WMed Street Medicine
  Dr. Svaevani Alluri, Dr. Cheryl Dickson and Dr. Nic Hemstetter

- Health Literacy with local refugees
  Dr. Doris Ravotas, CHHS Emerti

- Intercare Community Health Network
  Ms. Velma Hendershot, CEO
Deirdre Cooper Owens, an award-winning historian and popular public speaker, is the Charles and Linda Wilson Professor in the History of Medicine and Director of the Humanities in Medicine Program at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. In this position, she is one of two Black women in the U.S. running a medical humanities program. Dr. Cooper Owens is also the Director of the Program in African American History at the Library Company of Philadelphia, the country’s oldest cultural institution.

Cooper Owens is a proud graduate of two historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs), the all-women’s Bennett College and Clark Atlanta University. She earned her Ph.D. in history at UCLA and has had a number of prestigious fellowships at the University of Virginia, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and as a Big Ten Academic Leadership Fellow. As one of the country’s most “acclaimed experts in U.S. history,” according to Time Magazine, Cooper Owens is steadily working towards making history more accessible and inspiring for all.

A NOTE FROM THE COMMITTEE

The last DEI conference in the college was held back in February 2019, before life was upended by a global pandemic, and the social upheaval surrounding the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery, to name only a few. So much has changed since we last came together, and there’s still so much work to do.

The CHHS Committee for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion is committed doing better, and to identifying ways to make the College of Health and Human Services a better place for all of our students. We thank you for joining us today, and for helping us maintain our own forward momentum. We hope you leave the conference energized, ready to get back to your own work, and determined to keep pushing toward equity and social justice.
Scan to access the Livestream of the 2022 CHHS DEI Conference

Scan to complete the participant survey for the 2022 CHHS DEI Conference

CHHS Committee for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

- Dr. Betty Dennis, Chair
- Dr. Carrie Barrett
- Wan Chen
- Eric Comer
- Dr. Elyse Connors
- Dr. Steve Eberth
- Joshua Enos
- Rachel Koeson
- Joel Krauss
- Dr. Shannon McMorrow
- Dr. Andrea Perez
- Dr. Maria Roche-Dean
- Tanya Timmerman
- Dr. Pamela Wadsworth