COVID-19: A YEAR OF SERVICE THROUGH RESEARCH, COMMUNITY, COLLABORATION, EDUCATION & ENGAGEMENT 2020-2021
When we give cheerfully and accept gratefully, everyone is blessed. One must know not just how to accept a gift, but with what grace to share it.
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The COVID-19 pandemic created a devastating impact on many communities, particularly impacting minoritized communities across the country. The Maya Angelou Center for Health Equity (MACHE) responded to the COVID-19 pandemic by engaging the most impacted communities. The Center’s staff and its Triad Pastors Network partnered with community-based organizations and faith communities to provide COVID-19 awareness, COVID-19 testing and vaccination opportunities, food, and connections to family resources for African American, Hispanic American, American Indian and rural communities.

With the assistance of five Community Health Workers, our Center connected over 14,600 individuals to resources such as clothing, household goods, housing assistance, utilities and employment support services. We provided over 700,000 pounds of food through 16 food distributions. Through a partnership with the Department of Health and Human Services, the Center donated Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to 4,000 local residents, and our Triad Pastors Network and COVID-19 Research Leadership Council raised awareness for over 300,000 African Americans, Native Americans and Hispanic Americans through virtual town halls and webinars. The Network also participated in a COVID-19 pilot project with over 1300 participants to understand and implement vaccine hesitancy education specifically tailored to the needs and concerns among younger African Americans.

The work of MACHE continues by promoting vaccine uptake by facilitating church-based vaccination events in communities where vaccination rates are low and continued access to vaccines and testing is needed.

Sincerely,

Goldie Smith Byrd, PhD
Director, Maya Angelou Center for Health Equity
To guide our efforts we gathered information from communities, stakeholders and policy makers.

**Survey Data and Figures**

MACHE surveyed caregivers of Alzheimer disease patients to understand how they have been affected by COVID-19. A total of 274 caregivers shared with MACHE their needs during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Alzheimer’s disease Caregivers’ Social and Medical Needs during the COVID-19 Pandemic

*Respondents could select more than one categories of need.*

**NC Bridge Builders Contest**

The NC Bridge Builder Contest provided an opportunity for community members and stakeholders to submit creative and thoughtful solutions for addressing the trustworthiness of the information about COVID-19 and the vaccines. The top three entries were selected by an expert panel.
We conducted focus groups and surveys local and national faith leaders. MACHE also surveyed for trusted sources of information about COVID-19 through faith leaders from the Triad Pastors Network.

What is Your Gender? (Total N = 1351*)

To the Best of Your Knowledge, Do You Have, or Have You Ever Had COVID-19? (Total N = 1351*)

Have You Received a COVID-19 Vaccine? (Total N = 1351*)

*data collection and entry are ongoing as of September 21, 2021
Evidence Academy

The COVID-19 Equity Evidence Academy 2021: Translating Innovations in Testing was an invited inaugural event hosted by the Rapid Acceleration in Diagnostics-Underserved Population (RADx-UP) initiative in partnership with the Community Engagement Alliance (CEAL) Against COVID-19 Disparities initiative. The Evidence Academy is an engaged conference approach to understand the state-of-the-art science, the current evidence of COVID-19 testing, and related factors in the populations most impacted. The COVID-19 Equity Evidence Academy provides a starting place to discuss innovative ideas for combatting COVID-19 and to make a change in communities hardest hit by the pandemic. 300 people attended this NIH sponsored event and MACHE was one of the North Carolina CEAL sites.
COVID-19 EDUCATION & ACCESS TO RESOURCES

285 hours served by Community Health Workers at the Wake Forest Baptist Health Mobile Clinic.

2262 people served at vaccine events by Community Health Workers.

5000 neighbors connected to services through Community Health Workers.

50 MACHE staff attended over 50 COVID-19 community outreach events in 2021.
COVID-19 EDUCATION & ACCESS TO RESOURCES

MACHE COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER
REFERRALS SINCE SEPTEMBER 2020

This work was made possible through a contract with Curamericas Global

Community Health Workers

Felecia Bennett-Giles, MS
Civic Engagement Specialist

Gilda Cowan, BS
(Guilford) Bilingual Medical Interpreter

Kindra Ritzie-Worthy, MS
(Forsyth) School Counselor

Luis Melendez, MD
(Forsyth) Retired Physician
Spanish speaker

Tia S. Diggs-Ingram, BS
(Guilford) High School Teacher

Dorey L. Thomas Ivory, MS
(Forsyth)
COVID-19 ADDRESSING FOOD INSECURITY, COVID-19 AWARENESS & RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

We combined food distributions with access to resources, COVID-19 education and awareness, as well as opportunities to engage in research and clinical trial opportunities.
COVID-19 ADDRESSING FOOD INSECURITY

We served North Carolina Communities...

15

food distributions across NC where COVID-19 information and PPE were distributed.

700K

pounds of food distributed in most impacted communities.

4000

homes assisted.
COVID-19 BUILDING TRUST VIDEO INTERVIEWS

MACHE created a series of short videos with WF School of Medicines Students, Faculty and community partners for the NIH CEAL to build trust about the COVID-19 vaccine.

Find the interviews on YouTube: *Maya Angelou Center for Health Equity*
COVID-19 VACCINE AWARENESS

WEBINARS
PRESENTED BY MACHE

in collaboration with

- The Triad Pastors Network
- MACHE Affiliate Faculty
- NC Department of Health & Human Service
- Community Research Partnership Research Leadership Council
- Community Based Organizations

Trusted Voices:
Faith Leader Being Vaccinated

COVID-19 VACCINE AWARENESS
COVID-19 TOWN HALL MEETINGS

Reaching diverse communities - American Indians, Latinx, Rural and Young Adults

MACHE EFFORTS HAVE REACHED OVER 300,000 PEOPLE
COVID-19 TOWN HALL MEETINGS

The Triad Pastors Network reached 300,000 African Americans through its Leaders Leading Leaders model for engaging faith-based organizations in COVID-19 and vaccination town halls.

AFFILIATE FACULTY ASSISTED MACHE WITH THESE EFFORTS
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ALLIANCE (CEAL) AGAINST COVID-19 DISPARITIES is a National Institutes of Health-wide effort led by the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) and the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI). CEAL focuses on addressing misinformation around COVID-19, engaging trusted partners and messengers in the delivery of accurate information, educating communities on the importance of inclusion in clinical research to overcome COVID-19, and most importantly, health disparities. This is especially important for people unduly burdened by COVID-19 such as African Americans, Hispanics/Latinxs, and American Indians/Alaska Natives, who account for over half of all reported cases in the United States. CEAL teams also conduct research on the most effective strategies for ensuring inclusion and for engaging, educating, and increasing awareness within these groups about vaccine and treatment clinical trials to prevent and treat the disease.
MACHE TEAM MEMBERS

- Dr. Goldie Byrd
- Dr. Allison Caban-Holt
- Mr. Jarrel Clark
- Ms. Tayla Ford
- Dr. Capri Foy
- Dr. TanYa Gwathmey-Williams
- Ms. Shelby Henderson
- Ms. Charlene Hunt
- Ms. Dorey Ivory
- Ms. Sarah Langdon
- Dr. Shawnta Lloyd
- Ms. Sheere Mills
- Ms. Mia Sloan
- Ms. Takiyah Starks
- Rev. Dr. Kelvin Lamonte Williams
- Ms. Latonya Yarber
• NC CEAL Grant # 1OT2HL156812-01
• COVID-19 Community Research Partnership
  Clinical Trials.gov Identifier Number: NCT04342884
• Curamericas Global Contract # 30-21002-ORH
• Wake Foundation Grant # 4000011805
• Javara Research, Inc.