

AUGUST 2011



Center affiliated faculty members participate in strategic planning for a System-wide disparities institute, 2010

Affiliated Faculty Provide Diverse Expertise to Communities

The mission of the Center for Community Health Development (CCHD) is *to work collaboratively with communities and other partners to translate, evaluate, and disseminate effective strategies for addressing critical health-related issues in rural and underserved populations*. As we collaborate with communities and the organizations that serve them, our research and service agendas should center on issues identified by those communities as being high priority.

Although some research centers focus on specific populations or health issues, CCHD is focused on building community capacity by partnering to address whatever issues the community has prioritized. Because our core faculty and staff expertise is focused on community health development, capacity building, and partnership development, we are often, on our own, unequipped to help address specific community issues. By design, this forces us to seek out new experts in other disciplines, forging collaborative relationships with researchers and practitioners from diverse fields and backgrounds to complement our research teams and work with our community partners.

CCHD affiliated faculty members are offered several benefits through the Center. To begin with, information is disseminated regularly regarding opportunities for research, funding, and publications. Also, as a Prevention Research Center, CCHD is eligible for limited competition funding each year for Special Interest Projects (SIPs) announced through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; only our affiliated faculty are able to apply for these funds. In addition, the Center provides infrastructure for investigators to apply for and conduct SIPs and other community-based research when needed and assists with proposal development and submission. Finally, when we conduct community health assessments, our affiliated faculty have the opportunity to submit questions of interest to be included in our household survey, deriving knowledge of use to the community and providing the faculty members with rich data to draw upon for their own research.



As our communities continue to identify and prioritize health issues, we look forward to building new relationships and growing our network of affiliated faculty.

Center for Community Health Development

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Celebrating 10 years of Accomplishments

CCHD Affiliated Faculty Provide Diverse Expertise



Several affiliated faculty members collaborate with research partners to develop a proposal, 2011

Currently, CCHD has 33 affiliated faculty members, hailing from departments including:

- Communication
- Health & Kinesiology
- Recreation, Park & Tourism Science
- Educational Psychology
- Social & Behavioral Health
- Health Policy & Management
- Epidemiology & Biostatistics
- College of Medicine
- Environmental & Occupational Health
- Architecture & Urban Planning
- Sociology
- College of Pharmacy

“My affiliation with CCHD has been wonderful. Not only have I been able to take part and contribute to different projects, but more importantly, I have been able to meet and develop friendships with great people.”

— *George Cunningham, Health and Kinesiology*

“As a new faculty member at Texas A&M, being an affiliated faculty member with CCHD has provided important opportunities for me to meet potential new research collaborators that otherwise would not have been available. Additionally, the environment of the Center has been supportive in encouraging me to take an active role in leading edge disparities research and providing invaluable mentorship for developing and refining my research ideas.” — *Mike Edwards, Recreation, Parks, & Tourism Sciences*



Affiliated faculty member, Tim Elliott, presents his telehealth research at the 2010 Brazos Valley Health Summit



Affiliated faculty member, Jane Bolin, shows the Diabetes Kiosk to Dr. Eduardo Simoes, Director of the Prevention Research Center Program at the CDC, 2007

“When I arrived at SRPH 3 years ago as a new Assistant Professor in Environmental and Occupational Health, my list of colleagues was very short. During the past 3 years, CCHD faculty, staff, and affiliated faculty have systematically assisted me with locating and securing funding, developing grant proposals, and exponentially expanding my collaborative network. Additionally, senior faculty members have served as informal mentors in the promotion and tenure process while helping me to make the transition from corporate America to academia.” — *Mark Benden, Environmental and Occupational Health*

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