

September 13, 2022

DARS Family,

I am sorry for the delay on updating you all on DARS' actions toward Anti-Racism but we wanted to wait on the result of a grant application. It was worth the wait...

Under the leadership of Dr. Atherton and Dr. Euring, DARS will be receiving a 5-year, \$500,000 per year grant from SAMHSA to provide outreach services to Racial/Ethnic Minorities with substance use issues who are at risk for HIV. This project will expand Engage ENC services to 100 (per year) Racial/Ethnic Minorities residing in eastern NC. This project is emblematic of the Anti-Racism and Anti-Bigotry infusion DARS has been making the past three years.

Here are some highlights of the 21-22 academic year:

- To celebrate Black History Month, Nicole Augustine presented on *resilience, health equity, and why the topic of health disparities is important*. For national minority month mental health awareness month, we had Maya Pittman present *With Clear Eyes: Sharpening our Commitment to Being Anti-Racist in Counseling Systems*.
- Faculty continued their book studies including *White Privilege* by De Angelo, *Between the World and Me* by Coates, and started a study of *Blind Spot* by Banaji and Greenwald.
- Dr. Dominique Clemmons-James ("CJ") was hired as an Assistant Professor (Tenure Track). Dr. CJ brings significant expertise in recovery for Racial/Ethnic Minorities. After a year of settling in, Dr. CJ will take over directorship of the MS in Rehabilitation Counseling Program.

Moving forward into the 2022-2023 Academic Year...

- We will continue holding special events (Recovery Month, Disability and Employment Month, Black History Month, etc.) with a Anti-Racism focus. In time, these events will become part of the cultural fabric of DARS.
- We started a new event to increase the feeling belonging and inclusion of all DARS students. At the beginning of each semester, we will hold an in-person gathering with the entire DARS student body. The gathering will include cohesion building activities, as well as personal goal setting toward DARS' mission and technical standards of becoming more Anti-Racist and Anti-Bigoted. This event was inspired after faculty completed a DEI training facilitated by ECU's Office of Equity and Diversity.
- We will continue to work toward endowing our Diversity Scholarship.
- Dr. Euring will be taking the preliminary steps toward the development of a Graduate Certificate in Justice, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.
- Lastly, and keep your fingers crossed...We are waiting to hear back from NC Department of Health and Human Services on our grant application to support scholarships of Students from Racial/Ethnic Minorities. If funded, \$720,00 (across two years) of scholarships will be awarded to DARS clinical counseling students from Racial/Ethnic Minorities.

As always, please feel free to contact me with questions, concerns, and/or suggestions.

Forward!

Dr. T

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