



WINTER 2024

# IMPACT REPORT

## The Path Ahead: A Letter from Recently Appointed CHHS Dean, Dr. Jennifer Kellman-Fritz

Dear College of Health and Human Services community,

I feel privileged to step into the year as the dean of our remarkable college. The past year has been one with many changes, but it has also showcased our resilience and dedication to excellence. I am truly excited about the possibilities that lie ahead and am thrilled to have our new Associate Dean Andrea Zakrajsek by my side.

My vision for our college is one of unity and innovation, where we continue to be at the forefront of healthcare and human services education and practice. I am committed to fostering an environment where inclusivity, diversity, and equity are not only embraced but celebrated. We will work together to ensure that every student, staff member, and faculty feels valued and empowered, being free to pursue their individual passions and interests.

In the coming year, we will focus on expanding our research initiatives to address critical health and social issues. I envision our college as a hub for interdisciplinary research that impacts the lives of individuals and communities, as well as our continued partnerships with local healthcare organizations and agencies, extending our commitment to service and outreach.

Furthermore, professional development and mentorship programs will be a cornerstone of our efforts. By nurturing our students and empowering them to become the next



Eastern Michigan University College of Health and Human Services newly appointed Dean, Dr. Jennifer Kellman-Fritz.

generation of leaders in health and human services, we can make a lasting impact on the well-being of our society. I am excited about the potential that lies ahead of us, and I look forward to working alongside each of you in achieving these goals. Together, we can make 2024 a year of growth, progress, and happiness for our college and everyone we serve. ■



Scan the QR code or [click here](#) to learn more about Dr. Jennifer Kellman-Fritz.

# Emeritus Professor Dr. Richard Douglass Delivers Powerful Lecture on the U.S. Healthcare System

Dr. Douglass' lecture, "Understanding and Navigating the Work Environment of Healthcare in the U.S. as Health Professionals," was delivered to an audience of students, faculty and alumni in the EMU Student Center on October 25th.

Based on research and insights gleaned during the writing of his book, "The Evolution of the US Healthcare System: A Legacy of Opportunism and Greed," as well as 50 years of experience in the field of healthcare, he discussed the clash of health service workers' good-natured desires for working in this field with the complications that arise within large organizations and corporate structures.

The professional challenges that arise from these conflicts and the systematic failures that allow them to exist were highlighted in the discussion. Dr. Douglass shared his wealth of experience and research with



"Richard was quite instrumental in my change of career decision to attend Eastern in its Health Administration program and was very glad to support the event for his recent publication. I am forever grateful for his guidance and presence in my life."

**David Rupprecht, MHSA, BS Health Administration, 2004**

multiple generations of health professionals to help them educate, identify and address these issues themselves.

A lifelong academic, Dr. Douglass has served on the faculties of the University of Michigan, Wayne State University and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control in Chicago. His contributions to EMU include creating an endowed scholarship within the CHHS alongside Emeritus Professor William

Lavery, as well as the students he has inspired with his passion for bettering the healthcare system.

His work extends beyond the U.S., as he helped to create a partnership with Ashesi University in Ghana.

Thank you, Dr. Douglass, for contributing all that you have to healthcare and sharing your knowledge with others. ■

## National Institutes of Health (NIH) Organization Awards Grant to Dr. Tsu-Yin Wu to Combat Firearm Violence

In response to the growing public health crisis involving firearm deaths, the NIH issued funding for researching, developing and implementing ways to reduce firearm violence and the ensuing trauma it brings to affected communities. One such grant was awarded to Dr. Tsu-Yin Wu, CHHS faculty member and director of the Center for Health Disparities Innovations and Studies (CHDIS).

The award, Adaptable Community-Engaged Intervention for Violence Prevention: Michigan Model, will be used by Dr. Wu and the CHDIS to identify, create and implement intervention strategies for Asian American communities in Michigan, which have become more at-risk due

to a rise in racism and gun ownership. By identifying common risk and protective factors, they hope to create intervention points to lower the risk of firearm violence.

The CHDIS and Dr. Wu seek to reduce racial and ethnic health disparities of minority populations in Michigan. By working with local leaders to identify the roots of these disparities, their team works to develop services, education opportunities and training tailored to the community. ■



Grant recipient, Dr. Tsu-Yin Wu.



Scan the QR code or [click here](#) to learn more about the CHDIS and its dedication to helping underserved populations and communities.

# CHHS Online RN to BSN Program Recognized by EduMed as #1 Choice in Michigan, #37 BSN Program in the Nation

The College of Health & Human Services online registered nursing program to Bachelor of Science in Nursing earned the top spot in Michigan for the 2023 to 2024 school year by EduMed, an organization that guides those interested in pursuing a career in medicine and health. It provides free content and tools to find the best program and career path for every student's circumstances.

Ranked by assigned weighting, EduMed takes into account financial, quality of education and career and academic support when determining a program's position. These include average in-state tuition, financial aid awarded, academic counseling, career placement services, number of online programs and student-to-faculty ratio, among others.

In 2022, Vicki Washington was appointed associate director of online nursing studies, where she has put forth meaningful efforts toward improving the quality,

accessibility and overall experience of the programs. In response to the EMU's ranking, Washington said, "I believe this recognition demonstrates the commitment of the faculty and staff to listen to our students' needs and concerns and go all out to provide the best education possible by meeting the students where they are." ■



Vicki Washington, Associate Director for Online Nursing Studies & Asst. Professor



Scan the QR code or [click here](#) to learn more about the EduMed Recognition.

## Alumni Impact

Thank you to our alumni for representing the best of what the College of Health & Human Services has to offer.

### Tasha Brickhouse, MS, RDN, '18

Tasha recently received the Whole Heart Award in recognition of her devotion to her patients and the mission of AdventHealth Fish Memorial Hospital where she is a clinical nutrition manager. A preceptor for EMU dietetics students just beginning their career path, she is an invaluable asset to EMU and the people she serves.

### Cailyn Van Camp, MS, '20

Currently in her fourth year as a Ph.D. student in Michigan State University's Kinesiology program, Cailyn has excelled in her academic pursuits since she graduated from EMU in 2020. She has co-authored four peer-reviewed publications, delivered six conference presentations, secured student research funding in every year of her doctoral studies, and was awarded the Graduate Student Scholar Award at the 2023 Midwest American College of Sports Medicine conference.

### GameAbove EMU

GameAbove is an alumni-led philanthropic group that seeks to enhance the academic and athletic programs of EMU while also maintaining a connection with Ypsilanti and the local community. On #GivingTrueDay 2023, the group matched a total donation of \$12,000 to Swoop's Food Pantry, providing additional resources to the EMU community.



Top Left Clockwise: GameAbove, Tasha Brickhouse, Eseosa Agubor.

### Nick Pomante, MS RD, '15

Nick is the Wellness Coordinator of the Office of Wellness and Community Responsibility at Eastern Michigan University. Since his first event in 2018, he has been pivotal in creating an environment focused on all aspects of the community's well-being including financial stability, mental health, nutrition and sleep.

### Eseosa Agubor, MS, '22

Eseosa started his career at ProMedica Flower Hospital in Sylvania, Ohio, with an internship while still completing his master's degree. Now working there full-time as an exercise therapist, he oversees patients during cardiac rehabilitation. On top of these responsibilities, Eseosa acts as the intake coordinator for his department and trains the next generation through internships. ■



## CHHS OUTSTANDING STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

### Social Work Grad, Roberto Frausto Jr.

Roberto is a first-generation university student who recently completed the Bachelor of Social Work program at EMU. Enlisting in the United States Army in 2011 after high school, Roberto developed a passion for social work after seeing how marginalized communities were often unable to access resources that would improve their living conditions.

Starting at EMU in the summer of 2021, he became interested in Macro level social work and community development. He is the first of his family to be accepted into a graduate program, EMU's Master of Social Work, which he began this past fall with a concentration in Mental Health and Substance Use Recovery. ■

# GIVING MAKES A DIFFERENCE

► **Swoop's Pantry** continues to see a significant increase in shoppers, food costs, and pounds of food distributed. Please consider donating monetarily, items, or consider hosting a food drive to help keep our shelves stocked in this time of great need.

► **#GivingTuesday2023 by the numbers:**

 **957**  
INDIVIDUAL DONORS

 **\$526,467**  
IN TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS

 **ONE**  
DEDICATED COMMUNITY

► **CHHS Clinical Research Administration Ranked #1 in the Country**

The clinical research administration graduate program has been named number one in the nation by the Healthcare Management Degree Guide since 2017. Learn more about the program at [bit.ly/CRAProgram](https://bit.ly/CRAProgram).

► **2024 marks the start of a new journey** for over 1,200 CHHS students after the fall commencement ceremony on Dec. 17. We believe they'll contribute much to their chosen fields and professions, and we can't wait to see their success.



To make a gift to the College of Health and Human Services, please scan the QR code or donate at [emich.edu/give](https://emich.edu/give)

