ADDRESSING CARDIOVASCULAR HEALTH THROUGH GRADUATE TRAINING-THE JACKSON HEART STUDY

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Abstract: It is very well known that African Americans in the United States, and particularly in Mississippi, have made little progress in addressing risk factors for cardiovascular disease, such as physical activity, overweight and obesity, diabetes and high blood pressure. The Jackson Heart Study (JHS) Graduate Training and Education Center (GTEC) at Jackson State University was implemented to help develop experts in cardiovascular epidemiology through its Daniel Hale Williams Scholar program. This presentation provides an overview of the GTEC programs to train graduate students to develop the capacity to improve cardiovascular health in the African American community. The mission of the Jackson Heart Study (JHS) Graduate Training and Education Center (GTEC) at Jackson State University is to provide opportunities in public health and biomedical research techniques for scholars to improve their capacity in community-based research and practice. This presentation will discuss the implementation structure for the Daniel Hale Williams Scholar program that was developed by the JHS Graduate Training and Education Center at Jackson State University. GTEC developed a Learning Community model that was used to drive the operations of the Daniel Hale Williams Scholar program. Four basic practices have been injected into the learning community as a way to stimulate scholarly productivity. During the first two years of operations, the GTEC DHW scholars have successfully engaged in numerous scientific activities that are representative of the success of the program.

Keywords: Graduate Training, Learning Community, Cardiovascular Epidemiology

Acknowledgement: This research is supported by JHS Graduate Training and Education Center (GTEC) NHLBI-NIH Contract HSN268201300049C and by JSU Center of Excellence of Minority Health and Health Disparities funded by the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities of the National Institutes of Health under Award Number P20MD006899. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institutes of Health.”