

# VISION 2020 e-news

UNM HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

Working with community partners, UNM HSC will help NM make more progress in health and health equity than any other state by 2020

## Vision 2020 Follow-up - Save the Date!

May 4th, 2011 has been scheduled for the next Vision 2020 event. There will be more information in upcoming newsletters on planning and other specifics but it will likely be an all day event on campus with follow-up to be done in New Mexico communities.

## Congratulations to the Mini-Grant Awardees! Scholarly Support for Vision 2020!

The Office for Community Health, through its Disparities Endowment, has awarded \$10,000 in mini-grants aimed toward reducing health disparities in minority populations in New Mexico. It has also awarded an additional \$20,000 in support of the NIH-funded NM Center for the Advancement of Research, Engagement, and Science on Health Disparities (NM CARES HD), through its "Research with Our Communities" program. The purpose of these mini-grants is to support small pilot projects to produce preliminary data for intervention trials related to Vision 2020 and to reduce health disparities experienced by NM residents.

Congratulations to the following six projects, which have been awarded a \$5,000 mini-grant each:

"Growing Community Connections: The American Indian Partnership Board" (PI: Barbara Damron)

"Curriculum Development for the Prospera Project: A Teen Mother Peer Support Program" (PI: Kristine Tollestrup; Research team: Elena Bissell, MD; Stephanie Jackson, MPH)

"The Effect of NM Super Fit Teen Challenge on Weight Related Health Outcomes" (PI: Kathy Lopez-Bushnell; Research team: Connie Fasler, RN, BSN; Terri Gibson, RN, MSN; Suzanne Gagnon, RN, MSN, CFNP)



"Identifying Trends and Barriers to Long-Acting Reversible Contraceptive (LARC) Use in Ethnic Minority Women" (PI: Eve Espey; Research team: Tony Ogburn, MD; Larry Leeman, MD, MPH; Rameet H. Singh, MD, MPH; Laura Migliaccio, CNM)

"Student Mentoring Project" (PI: Anne Simpson; Research team: Amy Whitfield)

"Creating an Inventory of Diabetes Prevention and Intervention Programs for Children in Bernalillo County" (PI: Mario Pacheco; Research team: Francisco Ronquillo)

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## **The Prospera Project: A Teen Mother Peer Support Program**



The UNM Family & Community Medicine Department in conjunction with the New Mexico Department of Health WIC program is developing the Prospera Project to investigate the effectiveness of teen mother peer mentoring at New Futures School in Albuquerque. The goals of the study are to increase teen mother educational attainment, increase breast feeding longevity and reduce repeat pregnancies.

New Futures is a public school for pregnant and parenting girls in Albuquerque. It has a comprehensive assembly of services and education in one place, but they can only serve the students who attend school. The graduation rate at New Futures is 30%. This is by far the lowest graduation rate in the state. There are socio-cultural, practical and personal barriers to teen mothers remaining

in school. The Prospera Project will use New Futures graduates to serve as peer mentors to the students. They will provide one-on-one home visits and telephone support, using the evidence based practice of motivational interviewing.

The vision of the Prospera Project is to create an innovative combination of education, support services and peer mentor outreach to teen mothers in New Mexico. When teen mothers can graduate from high school, a broad spectrum of health and economic outcomes improve, not only for themselves, but also for their child.

Contacts for this project are Kristine Tollestrup, PhD, MPH, Carolina Yahne, PhD, Stephanie Jackson, MPH, and Elena Bissell, MD

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## **CTSC Links to Priority Community Health Needs**

In 2010 the Clinical and Translational Sciences Center (CTSC) opened on campus; Funded by the NIH and part of a select system of 55 clinical and translation centers and institutes across the country, the CTSC focuses on “bench to bedside” medicine, bringing cutting-edge medical knowledge and technology to patients across New Mexico. The CTSC is partnering with the Health Extension Rural Offices (HEROs) and the community. As a result, in its first year the CTSC has been able to create a streamlined reporting structure to prioritize New

Mexicans' health needs, successfully fund community-engaged research based on those priorities, and build a foundation for community and research involvement through our HEROs.

This report, the *New Mexico Community Executive Brief for Researchers and Communities* itemizes health care needs across the state based on data from the state, CDC, and the Office of Community Health. The CTSC will be expanding the content of this report over the next year to include aspects of our research that impact health in New Mexico communities. The *Brief* is available on line (<http://hsc.unm.edu/research/ctsc/Docs/CTSC%20NM%20Community%20Brief%202010.pdf>), and it will be updated regularly.



Researchers seeking pilot research funding through the CTSC's *Research with Our Communities Award* have been encouraged to focus their research on one of the health concerns prioritized in the *Brief* in order to focus CTSC efforts on the most pressing needs of our communities. In less than a year, the CTSC has been able to offer two cycles of funding for the *Research with Our Communities Award*, funding four projects in October 2010. Awards from the second funding cycle will be announced by the CTSC on 15 March 2011.

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**If you have information you would like to be included in this e-newsletter, please contact Leigh Caswell at [lamason@salud.unm.edu](mailto:lamason@salud.unm.edu)**

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