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News and Resources from Health Equity Initiative!

A Time for Reflection...

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Greetings and Happy Fall!

We are pleased to present you with our Fall/Winter 2022 newsletter, and hope you enjoy the new resources and make time to connect with us at upcoming events.

I usually dedicate this space to a specific health equity topic. This time I thought to encourage reflection on the state of the health equity movement.

It has been almost three years since the onset of the pandemic, which has disproportionately affected communities that have been marginalized or experience other kinds of vulnerability and disadvantage. While progress has been made, social discrimination is still rampant in our cities and countries with recent policy setbacks for gender equity and LGBTQI+ rights. Systemic racism continues to be an issue in many institutions and systems. Climate change is increasingly affecting under-resourced communities. Yet, health equity does not seem to be any more in the news as at the beginning of the pandemic, something that continues to be important to build broader coalitions.

This is a time for reflection on the state of health equity in our own organizations and the communities we serve or belong to. What has worked so far? What should be improved? What kinds of resources and partnerships should be mobilized to further the movement and continue to effectively address health, racial and social inequities both in the U.S. and globally? Who else should we engage both from the public and private sectors? How do we mainstream community engagement in health equity research and practice? These questions are being discussed in our networks at [Health Equity Initiative](#) and hope they are at the forefront of your efforts in your organizations and communities.

In the meantime, I want to thank you all for your hard work and dedication to reducing health inequities. Thank you for being part of our community, supporting our efforts, collaborating with us, and following us.

We hope that the year ahead will bring an increased investment on achieving health, racial, and social equity in all of our communities. We should continue to fight for a better tomorrow.

In solidarity and strength,



Renata Schiavo, PhD, MA, CCL,

Founder and Board President, Board of Directors

On behalf of everyone in our **HEI Board of Directors**

A Warm Welcome to Our New Organizational Member!



Mock5 design says: According to the WHO, health literacy is a stronger predictor of an individual's health status than income, employment status, education level, and racial or ethnic group. **mock5 design** is a human-centered, woman-owned creative agency that works with health care providers and global pharmaceutical companies to address health inequities by creating patient education and engagement tools. We joined Health Equity Initiative to be able to interact with like-minded professionals and organizations.

Community Leaders Forums: Recent Reports and Upcoming Forums



Racial Healing and Health Equity: A Look at Promising Policies and Community-Driven Interventions



Community Leaders Forum:
Report and Call to Action

The 2022 Community Leaders Forum series is supported by a generous grant from Macy's Inc. macys inc

To download and share this report, act upon the recommendations, and/or to learn about our other community leaders forums click [here](#) or go to our [Reports](#) page for the report only.

Racial Healing and Health Equity: A Look at Promising Policies and Community-Driven Interventions:

This forum was designed, organized and hosted by Health Equity Initiative to capture local, national and global perspectives in the words of community leaders and their organizations. This report includes 1) a call to action, 2) a summary of the discussion from the Forum, and 3) specific recommendations for policy change and community-driven interventions as grounded in the experience of the community leaders who participated.

Be on the lookout for our upcoming forum on youth engagement and health equity, as well as another forum on the topic of racial healing and health equity.



We are grateful to Macy's Inc. for their generous support and partnership on our *Community Leaders Forums* initiative, which aligns with Health Equity Initiative's commitment to equitable community systems and to raising the influence of community voices on health, racial, and social equity issues. A heartfelt thank you to all of you at [Macy's!](#)

Save the Date! Upcoming Events/Opportunities to Meet Up!



HEI to attend APHA Conference!

Congratulations to the Health Equity Initiative team, whose abstract was accepted for oral presentation at the [2022 American Public Health Association \(APHA\) Annual Meeting](#). **Advancing Health Equity across Health and Social Issues: A Call to Action from a Community Leaders Forum Initiative** will be presented during the *Social Determinants of Health and Health Inequalities* session on **November 9, 2022 at 12:30pm**. [Click here](#) for more information. We hope to see you in Boston!



Additionally, this same topic was presented in a roundtable/New Information Circuit session at the [CORE Group Global Health Practitioner Conference](#) on Wednesday, October 5, 2022 (Table 10).

Standing up for Black Maternal Health - Aftershock Movie Clips and Conversation - Virtual Event!



On **November 29th**, join [Picture Motion](#) and partners for a clips and conversation virtual event with the team behind the film [Aftershock](#) on how we can stand up for Black maternal health—from our very own communities all the way to the halls of Congress. The panel will feature special guests working to address the maternal health crisis, including Representatives Lauren Underwood and Alma Adams. Reserve your spot for this critical conversation and be on the lookout for more inspiring speaker updates. **RSVP here:**

<https://bit.ly/aftershock-event2>.



Health Equity Initiative is honored to partner with Picture Motion and the team of Aftershock on this event and important conversation on maternal mortality inequities within the Black community.

[Join us!](#)

Congratulations to Tonya Lewis Lee!



Health Equity Initiative congratulates **[Tonya Lewis Lee](#)**, Entrepreneur, Filmmaker, Producer, Writer, Advocate, Health Equity Champion, and Founder, Movita, for her award-winning new documentary **[Aftershock](#)**, which she co-directed with Paula Eiselt. The film sheds light on key factors contributing to high rates of maternal mortality within the Black community, including systemic racism, increased rates of C-sections, and lack of skilled support systems at the hospital and community level, and advocates for practical solutions and new policies. A sensitive and thoughtful exploration of maternal mortality inequities, **[Aftershock](#)** is a must-see! Thank you Tonya for this great contribution to the field of health, racial and social equity! We are honored by your friendship and participation in several Health Equity Initiative's events.

2021 Annual Report - 10th Anniversary Edition



In celebration of our 10th anniversary, Health Equity Initiative issued its first annual report (2021). This 10th anniversary edition includes key lessons from 10 years (2011-2021), a report on 2021 activities, and much more. **Be sure to take a look [here](#)!** To learn more about our organization's impact, please click **[here](#)!**

From our *Health Equity Blog*



Health Equity and Reproductive Rights

During a time when women's rights have been put into question, this blog post is a reminder of resources available to all who wish to support this ongoing quest for reproductive rights and center women's stories. Click [here](#) to read more from the post written by [Paige Hammond](#) on behalf of HEI's Board of Directors.

COVID 19 and Mental Health Inequities on College Campuses



The COVID-19 pandemic has added an increased number of stressors to daily life and led students to experience heightened feelings of loneliness, stress, depression, and anxiety. Written by former HEI Communication Intern, [Nicole Carberry](#), this post discusses this mental health crisis occurring currently and offers advice and a call to action for readers. Read more [here](#).

Farewell to HEI Summer 2022 Intern!



Erin Williams, MPH was the Summer 2022 Communications and Social Media Intern at Health Equity Initiative. In August of 2022, she completed her Master of Public Health degree at Grand Valley State University. The experience with HEI helped [Erin](#) to look at public health, and specifically health equity, from a global perspective.

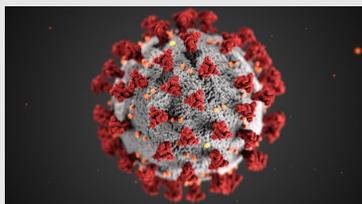
Congratulations and best of luck on your future endeavors, Erin!

Resources from Our Network on Health Equity (on COVID-19 and beyond)

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): [COVID-19 Resources for Tribal Communities](#)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): [Health Equity](#)

[Guiding Principles for Inclusive Communication](#)

- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): [Tools for Putting Social Determinants of Health into Action](#)**
- **Van de Pas et al. (2021) Expert Review of Vaccines: [COVID-19 vaccine equity: a health systems and policy perspective](#)**
- **National Institute of Health: [Understanding COVID-19 Vaccines](#)**
- **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services presented the [White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health](#) ... The first of its kind in nearly 50 years**



Please also visit our [COVID-19 and Health Equity Resources](#) page. We update this page regularly with resources and readings that point to the importance of keeping health equity on the table during the COVID-19 response and recovery.

Take Action!



There are many ways to get involved with Health Equity Initiative. Learn about how you can [take action](#) and support health equity!

[Become a Member](#)

[Donate](#)



About Health Equity Initiative

Health Equity Initiative (HEI) is a member-driven membership organization dedicated to building and sustaining a global community that engages across sectors and disciplines to advance health equity. By bringing together and enlisting the efforts of the public and private sectors, professions and communities that have both a stake and an influence on social determinants of health, HEI advocates for improving conditions and achieving equity in health for all. We focus on championing transformative change, supporting knowledge, engaging communities and leaders, and building capacity across sectors and disciplines to address barriers that prevent people from leading healthy and productive lives.

HEI is a federally recognized 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. All contributions are tax-deductible.

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