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News and Resources from Health Equity Initiative!

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Happy 2022! Hello and greetings from all of us at **Health Equity Initiative!** We hope everyone is staying safe and healthy and enjoyed the holiday season. We also hope that the year ahead will bring an increased investment on achieving health, racial, and social equity in our communities, and look forward to interacting with you all.

This time of the year always provides an opportunity to reflect on new beginnings and the path ahead. This is especially true for me and everyone at Health Equity Initiative as we closed 2021 with marking our 10th year anniversary and reflecting on key lessons learned and the path forward for the health equity movement.

As we look at the new year, we are renewing our commitment to address key issues that - thanks to the input of our members and broader community - have been **our signature focus areas** for the past 10 years. These are also key to COVID-19 response and recovery and include:

- Advocating for community engagement and ownership of local and multisectoral solutions to advance progress on the root causes of health inequities
- Addressing social discrimination (e.g., systemic racism, gender bias, bias toward the LGBTQI+ community or people living in poverty or with a disability, xenophobia, sexism, and other forms of implicit and/or institutional bias) as a key determinant of health and wellbeing
- Promoting equity and social justice in the design of cities and other kinds of built environments
- Focusing on system-change across professional sectors and disciplines by harnessing the power of partnerships

We will also be exploring new ways to continue to maximize **our impact** across our key action areas - education and advocacy, and community and capacity building - and to bridge the gap between local and global experiences. We look forward to learning from you all and improving upon the reach and sustainability of the ideas and interventions we have been seeding for the last 10 years. In the meantime, we invite you to explore our many free **resources**, and implement them in your own efforts as they fit.

As we reflect on this new beginning, I want to thank you all for being part of our community, supporting our efforts, and/or collaborating with us on a variety of endeavors. The most powerful thing in our health equity work is always the community we build, the people we meet, the collaborations we forge, the trust we nurture, and the conversations we have on our shared quest for equity and social justice. Thank you all for

your participation! We look forward to connecting/reconnecting this year.

May 2022 bring strength, health, and joy to you and your loved ones!



Renata Schiavo, PhD, MA, CCL.

Founder and President, Board of Directors
On behalf of everyone in our **HEI team**

Health Equity Initiative is ten years old! *10 Lessons from 10 Years, Highlights Video and Insights from the 10th Anniversary Social Event!*



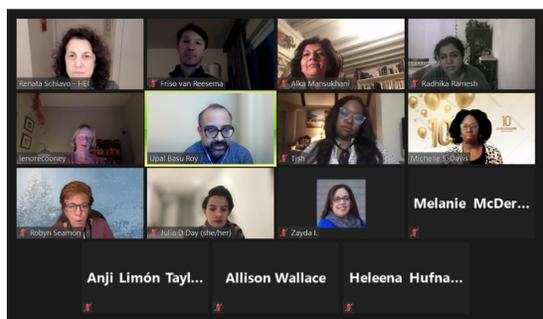
10 Years

of Education, Advocacy, and Community and
Capacity Building in Support of Health Equity!

Health Equity Initiative celebrated this very special milestone with its board members, advisory council, team, partners, and its broader community at a virtual event on **Thursday, December 9, 2021**. We reflected on the many lessons learned during this remarkable journey, such as the importance of purposeful conversations

with a community of people who share a passion for health equity, the necessity of always anticipating change without losing clarity of purpose and focus, the essential role of community and patient engagement in policy and intervention design, and the central role of trust in everything we do to advance health, racial, and social equity.

Here is a summary of lessons learned, *Advancing Health Equity—10 Lessons from 10 Years!* as presented by HEI's Founder and Board President, **Dr. Renata Schiavo** at the event. See also a **video** with highlights from the past 10 years and read about **HEI's History!**



Several themes and future directions also emerged from the moderated community conversation that followed the group reflection, including the importance of engaging new players in the health equity movement with an emphasis on those who have the power to facilitate change, the role of various forms of arts in building awareness of health equity issues and

mainstreaming the idea of health equity, and the need to further explore the link between community and patient trust and cultural humility.

All participants also shared their passion for health equity and reflected on the past 10 years. Thank you all for your participation!

We know that across organizations and communities, we still have a steep path ahead to achieve health, racial and social equity in our communities, and look forward to your continuous support and engagement on achieving health equity! In the meantime, Happy 10th birthday, **Health Equity Initiative!**

*An early version of this text was posted on our **Health Equity Blog** on December 18, 2021. Follow the above link to discover this and other posts!*

A Warm Welcome to Our New HEI Members!



Jessica Guidry says: *"I'm a biracial public health practitioner living and working on the lands of the Suquamish and Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribes (Kitsap County, Washington). I was a public health emergency manager for 13 years and am passionate about inclusive, equitable emergency planning and response. In August 2021, I became my agency's first Equity Program Manager. I joined HEI to broaden my knowledge and join an international community dedicated to social justice."*



Nika Norvila says: *"I am a sexuality educator and an advocate for sexual and reproductive health and rights, sex workers' rights and I believe health care should be a human right. I have advocated for the decriminalization of sex work through my research in Amsterdam, facilitated sexuality education to young people in Far Rockaway and Ozone Park, Queens, and developed new SRHR policies in Lithuania. In order to create longer lasting changes I recently started an MPH in Health Policy and Management at the CUNY Graduate School of Public Health. I joined HEI to become part of a community of like-minded professionals and grow my skills in the health equity field."*

HEI Intern Spotlight



Nicole Carberry is the Fall 2021/Spring 2022 Communication and Social Media Intern at Health Equity Initiative. She is a fourth year Communication major with a minor in Marketing at The College of New Jersey. During the first part of her internship, she was already able to gain a broader understanding of health equity. She was able to use the skills she learned in the classroom to spread awareness about health inequity and promote social justice. Nicole's favorite aspect about interning at HEI is the opportunity to inform others about social discrimination and bias in order to make a change.

Community Leaders Forums



Health Equity Initiative recently hosted two community leader forums in its signature series:

- ***The Impact of COVID-19 on Women and Girls: Implications for Health Equity*** (October 4, 2021)
- ***Racial Healing and Health Equity: A Look at Promising Policies and Community-Driven Interventions*** (November 18, 2021)

We appreciate all the community leaders who participated in the Forums including Ashley Gomez, Alicia Tauro, Essence Carson, Denise Morrow, Shannon Fleg and Von Gordon. We appreciate you all! Thank you!

We are also 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 provides a much needed forum to discuss and advocate for community-driven solutions to advance health equity. Thank you!

Listen in [here](#) to the recordings from both forums! Stay tuned for the call to action and full report for each forum!

Health Equity College Toolkit



Are you interested in providing your fellow peers or students with a unique learning experience? Do you want to bring health equity-related conversations to your college campus?

Our college toolkit was created by students for students to bring health equity-related conversations to college campuses. The toolkit provides sample ideas for in-person and virtual events, discussion starters, a glossary of health equity-related terms and

other relevant resources for undergraduate and graduate students who want to become engaged and engage their peers in the health equity movement.

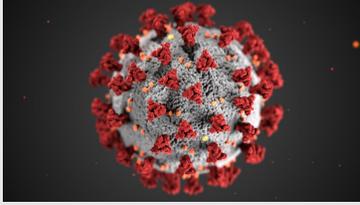
Check out the college toolkit [here](#), use it as it fits, and share it within your network!

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

- **National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI): [COVID-19 Information and Resources](#)**
- **KFF: [Latest Data on COVID-19 Vaccinations by Race/Ethnicity](#)**
- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): [Health Equity Guiding Principles for Inclusive Communication](#)**
- **Region 2 Public Health Training Center (PHTC): [Challenging Misinformation: Exploring Equity- and Community-Driven Strategies](#)** (presented by HEI's own Founder and Board President, Dr. Renata Schiavo)

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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