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WELCOME

November 2020

Welcome to the first TCRC newsletter!
While 2020 unfolded differently than anticipated, I am incredibly excited by all we are doing to support community-university participatory and action research. Later this year, TCRC’s 2020 Annual Review will highlight updates on past SEED grants and other initiatives. Meanwhile, this quarterly newsletter follows our October steering committee meeting, to provide interim TCRC updates and even help expand our reach to new opportunities by providing partners with content they can share with colleagues.

Your thoughts are appreciated to help TCRC share increasingly relevant and effective tools to support community-engaged research. Thank you for all that you do!

Warm regards,
Elaine Donnelly
Director, TCRC
STEERING COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

From October 2020

TCRC steering committee members shared their thoughts on community research during the pandemic, including how community responses to COVID might help build resiliency to climate change, bi-directional training on anti-racist research, pooled COVID testing for K12 schools, and challenges to research because of the need to be responsive to immediate crisis points, despite the time sensitive nature of research in adjacent topic areas such as opioid abuse.

"How do we explicitly embed antiracism into TCRC work?"

We centered our discussion about TCRC planning on:

- How do we explicitly embed antiracism into our work, and how can TCRC and partners support community participatory and action research as antiracist approaches?
- What might this mean -- concretely -- regarding TCRC work with community partners, faculty partners, and student partners?

Our discussion surfaced a wide range of thinking including: targeted RFPs related to antiracist research, highlighting the importance of resource and power-sharing in equitable research partnerships, breaking down hierarchies of knowledge that are racialized, how TCRC itself can be more welcoming and inclusive, incorporating community partners into workshops, consider student residents in our communities as antiracist practitioners, and the potential contribution of TCRC into Civic Pathways, a Tisch College one-credit course that focuses on student self-planning around civic identity and engagement.

Since that meeting, some of these ideas are already in motion, including how to increasingly incorporate community partner expertise into CBPR antiracist workshops (see Springboard on page 4) and making new introductions to start building relationships with potential partners for next year.

We also considered TCRC’s financial sustainability, with a path forward that follows on TCRC’s support of community participatory and action research approaches as antiracist. Penn Loh, Ben Echevarria, Alex Pirie, and Elaine Donnelly raised their hands to help think through future funding opportunities that emerge.
TCRC STUDENT NEWS

Research presentations

As the third leg of TCRC’s "community partner - faculty - student” stakeholder foundation, we actively support the next generation of community-engaged researchers. Recently, we have collaborated with the Tufts Office for Scholar Development’s Anne Moore to kick off a new student discussion series focused on community-engaged research.

How can students help turn a spotlight on urgent community concerns?

This summer, a "Research is/as Activism" panel highlighted four undergraduate students who shard research across education, computer science, political science and psychology. Read more HERE.

In October, undergraduate students had a panel discussion about antiracist community research in fine arts and media-related disciplines, specifically performance art that explores Latinx labor and racial/ethnic identity representation in children's television. More than 30 students joined the session and an online article about this event is forthcoming.

On December 4th, our third discussion spotlights student community research that pushes academic boundaries, raising questions about adolescent health, social media, racial disparities, and prison reform. Register HERE.

Finally, watch for future student research discussions (the fourth one is in development!). All your ideas and student introductions are greatly appreciated as we plan ahead for 2021.
RECENT UPDATES

Proposals and papers

It is exciting to share that TCRC is part of a Corporation for National and Community Service grant award. In its third year, this project of DSNI and UEP’s Penn Loh looks at how civic engagement can strengthen capacity for community control over land use and economic development in Boston’s Dudley neighborhood. TCRC will support comparative assessment efforts regarding COVID responses and impacts with DSNI and other community organizations.

"The strengths and even the limitations of CBPR can be critical assets to building and sustaining research partnerships during crisis."

Other recent news:
- TCRC submitted a Tufts Springboard proposal: Antiracism in Community Engaged Research. This grant would support students, faculty and community partners to learn and hone antiracist research skills using community based participatory and action approaches. Key components include interactive learning (student forum series, faculty workshops, and student cohort) as well as expanding TCRC’s online presence as a community participatory-action research hub.

- A proposal from TCRC and two partners from UMaine and UMass Lowell was selected for a special issue of the Journal for Higher Education Outreach and Engagement. The article focuses on CBPR and related research during the pandemic.