



# President's Award for Community-Engaged Research

June 2023

Office of  
Community  
Engagement



**BRIGHTER  
WORLD**

## AGENDA

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12:45 - 1:15

- Arrival & Refreshments

1:15 - 2:30

- Welcome by Karen Balcom, Academic Co-Director of Teaching & Learning, Office of Community Engagement
- Remarks by Kim Dej, Vice-Provost of Teaching & Learning
- Remarks by David Farrar, President & Vice-Chancellor
- Award Presentation
- Closing Remarks

2:30 - 3:00

- Reception



## ABOUT THE AWARD

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The President's Award for Community-Engaged Research was established to recognize teams of campus and community representatives who have demonstrated a commitment to initiating and supporting excellence in community-campus research initiatives.



2023  
RECIPIENTS

### NIAGARA HELPS PROGRAM TEAM

Campus Partner(s): Dr. Stephenson Strobel, Dr. Rahat Hossain, Chris Henderson, McMaster University Dept. of Medicine

Community Partner(s): Quest Community Health Centre (Shilpee Rana, Tyler English, Scott Cronkwright), Niagara Health Emergency Departments

The Niagara Homelessness Emergency Liaison and Peer Support (HELPS) program has been operational since late 2019. HELPS began as a prospective trial of peer support navigators with lived experience of homelessness providing services to patients experiencing homelessness in the St. Catharines and Niagara Falls Niagara Health Emergency Departments. Over the course of two years, HELPS has concluded its research phase with McMaster University and now continues in the region as a stand-alone health service in partnership between Quest Community Health Centre and the Niagara Health system, continuing to serve the most vulnerable members of the community based on a model that was originally developed and tested through this community-campus collaboration.

NOMINEES (in no particular order)

Project & Partners	Description
<p><b>Mathstronauts NEXUS Program Report</b> Campus Partner(s): Alexandra Pulchny, Karen Robson Community Partner(s): Sehrish Zehra</p>	<p>The purpose of this partnership is to offer meaningful assistance to high school students who are underrepresented in STEM and are interested in pursuing STEM fields as they transition to postsecondary education. This includes subject-matter tutoring, honing interpersonal skills, and instilling strong study habits, all of which combine to contribute to reduce mental distress among first-year postsecondary students. This collaboration is building upon an initial partnership between Mathstronauts and the Research Shop, which completed an environmental scan and of existing STEM programs available to high school students in the Hamilton. The current project provides insights into the benefits of after-school STEM programming through the development of the NEXUS program report.</p>
<p><b>Art of Creation (AoC) Project</b> Campus Partner(s): Deborah Sloboda Community Partner(s): Art Gallery of Hamilton with Advisory Committee (Hamilton Public Health, Six Nations Birthing Centre, YWCA, Hamilton based artists and midwives, and community members)</p>	<p>AoC uses art to educate the public about Early Origins Science, the importance of health before and during pregnancy, and how our health and disease risks are influenced by our genetics and parents' health and well-being. The AoC uses art to advocate for community-based approaches to support pregnant and soon-to-be pregnant individuals; to reduce barriers to health services, to break down traditional biases and undue responsibility placed upon pregnant individuals; and to bring about community-based awareness of the importance of a healthy start to life.</p>
<p><b>Hamilton Homelessness Mortality Data Project</b> Campus Partner(s): Dr. Claire Bodkin, Dr. Inna Berditchevskaia, Gessie Stearns, Dr. Jessica Scott, Suraj Bansal Community Partner(s): Hamilton Social Medicine Response Team (HAMSMaRT), Front line shelter workers and health care providers, Hamilton Health Sciences, and St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton</p>	<p>This research project emerged from a desire to bear witness and make visible the tragic deaths of people experiencing homelessness in our community. A network of community members working with people experiencing homelessness in the social service and healthcare sectors were mobilized to report deaths occurring to those deprived of housing on an ongoing basis. In tracking these deaths, the project team was able to provide some information about the circumstances of their death (medical co-morbidities, place of death, cause of death). In doing so, they were able to recognize the passing of loved and valued community members and bring attention to often omitted mortality outcomes for those deprived of housing in our city.</p>
<p><b>The Hamilton Income Clinic</b> Partners: Lissa Nussey, Dale Geunter, Elizabeth McGuire, Brendan Lew, Francisco Mendina, Simran Dhindsa</p>	<p>The Hamilton Income Clinic is an interdisciplinary, specialized clinic approach for completing Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) applications effectively for marginalized populations, including people experiencing homelessness. The Clinic provides a comprehensive range of services to support those who have nowhere else to turn for their ODSP application process and do not receive adequate accommodations. This includes assistance with the application itself, as well as communication with the disability adjudication unit (DAU), legal support from the Hamilton Community Legal Clinic, and support from healthcare professionals and volunteers in the greater Hamilton community.</p>

## NOMINEES (in no particular order)

<p><b>Mobilizing the Carer Standard Partnership Team</b>  Campus Partner(s): 18 researchers led by Allison Williams, 64 trainees, Regina Ding, Anastassios Dardas, 2 post-doctoral fellows  Community Partner(s): Wanda McKenna, Deb Garland</p>	<p>This Partnership Team is engaged with collecting evidence to make changes to better accommodate carer-workers in their place of work. This is done through the implementation of an intervention tool, the Carer Standard which provides a set of guidelines for organizations to create and sustain carer-friendly workplaces. This research program is made up of 12 distinct projects, many of which are community-based, and local to the Golden Horseshoe and southwestern Ontario. These local community projects contribute to a larger program of partnership research which extends nationally, as well as internationally. The COVID-19 pandemic made care work more intensive and riskier, especially for those caring for elderly loved ones. Well-being of carer-employees is an occupational health and safety issue, as employees must be rested and alert to stay safe on the job. The work of the Partnership Team helps gather the evidence needed to create policy and program change in support of carer-employees.</p>
<p><b>Collaborative Archaeologies, Decolonized Foodways Project</b>  Campus Partner(s): Andrew Roddick, Adrienne Lickers Xavier, Scott Martin, Greg Braun, Students  Community Partner(s): Six Nations community partners including Tanya Hill-Montour from the Six Nations of the Grand River Archaeology Department</p>	<p>The project aims to examine the challenges to establishing food sovereignty within Six Nations. The project members are pursuing three key goals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What can we learn about ancestral diet, food preparation, and food consumption from archaeological ceramics found at Six Nations, including those from legacy collections and from recent excavations?</li> <li>2. How might collaborative biomolecular archaeology reveal a more complex and nuanced picture of the past while simultaneously shifting epistemological approaches in how the archaeology sector trains Archaeological Community Monitors?</li> <li>3. How might an exploration of foodways generate more interest in, and capacity for, heritage research in Indigenous communities?</li> </ol>
<p><b>Emotions Matter Study</b>  Campus Partner(s): Diana Singh  Community Partner(s): Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) and the Hamilton Public Library (HPL)</p>	<p>This study examined the well-being of staff at regional branches of the CMHA as well as the HPL. Through this study, they assessed the impact COVID-19 pandemic had on the workers and developed a training program to help support resiliency among workers. This training is currently being used by four local libraries that participated in the study: Brantford, Burlington, Grimsby and Hamilton Public Libraries.</p>