NEWSLETTER

Office of Sponsored Programs & Title III

MARCH 2024

BENNETT FACULTY AND STUDENT LEAD: DREF & NIH's ALL OF US RESEARCH PROGRAM

The Delta Research and Educational Foundation (DREF) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) have teamed up for the All of Us Research Program. Their goal? To gather health data from over a million Americans, enhancing our understanding of health factors and advancing personalized medical care.

Dr. Shenna Shearin, a Bennett Chemistry Professor, and Deja Rogers, a Bennett Senior Chemistry Major, are leading a significant study. Their research, titled "Advancing Our Understanding of Sociocultural Factors of Depression and Mental Health Among Black Women," focuses on untangling the complexities of depression in Black women and its link to sociocultural influences. Despite its prevalence, current literature needs to have tailored insights into the experiences of this demographic.

Using the All of Us Researchers Workbench, a sophisticated data analysis platform, their research investigates the factors affecting depression among Black women in the US. To fill knowledge gaps, they analyze social class, support systems, lifestyle choices, education, healthcare access, and environmental factors. Moreover, they're honing their Python and R-programming skills to interpret and analyze datasets better, enriching our understanding of this critical topic.



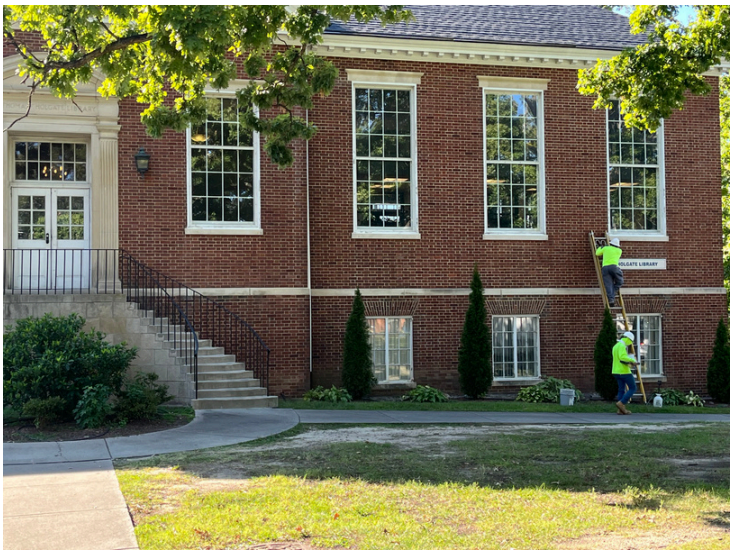
"Working with someone like Dr. Shearin, who is very knowledgeable, and learning simultaneously, is an honor. Our data, using PyThon, has enhanced my learning experiences as a Chemistry Major and Research Assistant." - Deja Rogers, Chemistry Major '24.

"Data science and mental health are both hot topics at Bennett College. All of Us Researchers Workbench intersects the two areas and provides research opportunities that build students' science identities and soft skills like communication, creativity, and leadership. As a research mentor, this is gratifying, and I am glad to be able to serve our students in this capacity." - Shenna M. Shearin, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Chemistry.

TRANSFORMING OUR CAMPUS: TITLE III RENOVATION ACTIVITY OF ACADEMIC BUILDINGS REVITALIZES AND ELEVATES ACADEMIC SPACES

Our campus is committed to enhancing our environment through a series of projects under the Title III Activity Renovation of Academic Buildings. This initiative targets assessing long-term needs and implementing strategies to modernize, renovate, and repair instructional facilities, ensuring compliance with city, state, and federal regulations.

Throughout the 2023-2024 grant period, we will focus on enhancing key structures such as the Henry Pfeiffer Science Building, Steele Hall & Holgate Library (recently upgraded with a waterproofing project), The Global Learning Center, JMS Heating Plant, Annie Merner Pfeiffer Chapel/Little Theatre, Steele Hall, Carnegie Library, the Enrollment Management Center, and the Catchings Health Complex Building. These facilities accommodate various classroom activities, including computer and science labs, auditoriums, and faculty offices. Join us as we embark on this journey to create an even better learning environment for our campus community.





BENNETT SCHOLARS SHINE: LOUIS STOKES ALLIANCES FOR MINORITY PARTICIPATION (LSAMP) PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Congratulations are extended to the following Bennett scholars who received the Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP) Program achievement award for the Fall 2023 and Spring 2024 semesters: *Adorable Bowden, Vinetta Garrett, Maria Gonzalez, Najar'ye Ivey, Agury Suazo, Nevaeh Burley, Samiya Green, Gabrielle Harper, Tamera Kemp, Sarah Mason, Jada Meadows, Tioluwani Ondeji, Nyjah Ridley, Deja Rogers, and Asia Rogers*. LSAMP program is aimed at increasing the quality and quantity of students successfully completing science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) baccalaureate degree programs and increasing the number of students interested in, academically qualified for, and matriculated into programs of graduate study. Bennett College is part of the VA-NC Alliance of the LSAMP Program. The LSAMP Scholars must maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher and attend meetings and workshops to promote academic success, to receive the achievement award.