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2018 Walden University Research Symposium

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WALDEN UNIVERSITY



2018
RESEARCH
SYMPOSIUM
PROGRAM

MINNEAPOLIS, MN

JULY 27, 2018 • 10:30 A.M.-NOON

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CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	2
SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM COMMITTEE	3
POSTER PRESENTATIONS	4
ROUNDTABLE SESSIONS	15
MEET-AND-GREET OPPORTUNITIES	15
ACADEMIC JOURNALS	16

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the 2018 Walden University Research Symposium. We are excited to be back in Minneapolis this year, where the symposium originally started 11 years ago! We also want to note that, for the first time this year, we have invited alumni who had previously participated in a New Scholars Workshop to serve as reviewers.

The Research Symposium is an annual event that showcases research projects from our academic community, especially work by our recent graduates. As is usually the case, the nature of the research presented at the symposium is quite varied and reflects many of the challenges currently being faced by individuals and institutions across the globe. The presentations at this symposium appear in two different formats.

- **Poster presentations** provide an opportunity for researchers to engage with all individuals attending the symposium and potentially to network with other interested researchers.
- **Using a roundtable presentation format**, a select group of researchers is available for interactive discussions of their work, with handouts and visual materials available to support the discussion.

For this symposium, we are highlighting the in-progress research by fellows associated with Walden University's Center for Social Change.

The "magic" of a research symposium can be found in the interactions between presenters and audience. So, please, don't be shy—step up, ask questions, make comments, and enjoy the experience.

Daniel W. Salter, PhD

Director, Strategic Research Initiatives, Center for Research Quality

SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Daniel W. Salter, PhD, Center for Research Quality, Chair

FACULTY REVIEWERS

Peter Anderson, PhD, College of Health Sciences

William (Bill) Barkley, PhD, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

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Jennifer A. Miller, DBA, Department of Defense, Washington, DC

Euphemia Robinson, EdD, Ministry of Education Youth and Information, St. Catherine, Jamaica, West Indies

Connie Schumacher, PhD, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

1. Challenges of Aging With the HIV Virus and Comorbidities

Rommie Navylia Abele, PhD, Graduate, College of Health Services

Since the introduction of antiretroviral therapy, the survival rate of infected HIV patients has been ascending. Scientists, however, have failed to address the challenges of aging and living with HIV. This study explored the lived experiences of HIV-infected survivors to gain an understanding of their challenges to improve their quality of life. Overall findings indicated that these participants live in daily survivorship filled with a constant struggle among a series of comorbidities that develop over time. Additionally, their journey is not only coupled with the unmet needs of today but also with the uncertainties of tomorrow. *Capstone Research*

2. Multi-ethnic Differences in Online Learning Among Students in Nigerian and Ghanaian Universities

Blessing F. Adeyoe, PhD, Faculty, The Richard W. Riley College of Education and Leadership

The growing multicultural nature of education and training environments makes it critical to examine the differences between online learning motivation among various ethnicities. Issues concerning ethnic differences in either traditional or online learning environments have not been well studied. Many studies, however, have addressed cultural orientation but not ethnic orientation. This study was grounded in Hofstede's cultural dimensions of learning framework. Data will be collected, and factorial design will be utilized to determine the differences in online learning motivation among students with multi-ethnic backgrounds regarding online learning. *In-Progress Research*

3. Effective Leadership Strategies, Employee Performance, and Organizational Sustainability in the Boxing Industry

Rita Ali, DBA, Graduate, College of Management and Technology

Ineffective leadership impedes performance and sustainability. This single case study was focused on strategies that boxing promotion company leaders use to improve performance and sustainability. Data included document reviews and interviews. Five themes and/or strategies emerged: (1) leading by example, (2) fostering teamwork, (3) people-driven action, (4) adaptive organizational change, and (5) providing rewards. *Capstone Research*

4. Crisis Intervention Team Training Among CIT-Trained Police Officers

Monique Allen, PhD, Graduate, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

The problem addressed in this phenomenological study was the lack of documentation that supported the lived experiences of crisis intervention team (CIT)-trained police officers related to their encounters with persons with mental illnesses. Results indicated that training improved perceptions of persons with mental illnesses and increased officer knowledge of mental illnesses. *Capstone Research*

5. Media Framing of Refugees in the United States and Canada

Janine J. Allwright, PhD, Graduate, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Canada and the United States display stark differences in the outcome of their refugee policies. The purpose of this study was to compare media framing of refugees in both countries to deliver insight into the different policy outcomes. The results of the quantitative content analysis suggested that the tone and frame of newspaper articles in the United States portrayed a less favorable attitude toward refugees compared with Canada. *Capstone Research*

6. Inclusion of the African Diaspora in Florida Nonprofit Organizations

Lydia Asana, PhD, Graduate, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Unsustainable development efforts in Africa thwart nonprofit and donor investments, hamper U.S. strategic interests, and frustrate target populations. This research identified and described opportunities and challenges of including the resource-laden African diaspora in Florida-based nonprofits' initiatives in Africa. Transnational theory of migration guided this qualitative research involving nonprofit leaders (N = 21). Findings may support sustainable development in Africa, benefitting multiple stakeholders. *Capstone Research*

7. Peer Coaching as Professional Development for Remote, Online Faculty

Laurie Bedford, PhD, Staff, Center for Faculty Excellence

Lyda Downs, PhD, Staff, Center for Faculty Excellence

Melissa McDowell, EdM, Staff, Center for Faculty Excellence

Kim Ford, DM/IST, Staff, Center for Faculty Excellence

The Walden University coaching model is used as a means of targeted professional development for faculty with the goal of continuous improvement. A single case-study approach was used to investigate how the coaching process assists faculty members in their ability to provide high-quality instruction to students through increased confidence and understanding of pedagogical issues. Focus group data with faculty coaching participants were triangulated with propositional data that included questionnaires completed by the coaches and coaching registration data. The data analysis process resulted in four themes: (1) affirmation, (2) shared expectations, (3) relationships, and (4) teaching support. *Completed Research*

8. Exploring the Impact of Shared Leadership Styles and Nonprofit Performance

Will Brown, Jr., PhD, Graduate, College of Management and Technology

Empirical data have not adequately revealed which methods of nonprofit organization (NPO) leadership reflect shared leadership, leaving NPOs at a disadvantage regarding leadership effectiveness. Findings showed shared leadership promotes a culture of positive social change through building honesty and integrity and can help NPO leaders improve funding performance. *Capstone Research*

9. Factors Affecting Employee Persistence in an Online Management Development Certificate Program

Todd D. Chester, PhD, Graduate, College of Management and Technology

An important approach to prepare new managers for increased responsibility is participation in online management programs; however, there is a lack of information about the factors that affect employee completion of these programs. This study explored employees' perceptions about motivation and persistence factors needed to complete online learning management programs. *Capstone Research*

10. Immigration Attorneys' Perceptions and Attitudes About Delays in Removal Proceeding Hearings

Awa C. Diawara, PhD, Graduate, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

This case study explored immigration attorneys' perceptions and attitudes about delays in removal proceedings hearings. Kettl's transformation of governance theory served as the theoretical foundation for this study, which explored immigration attorneys' perceptions about the effects of delays on the welfare of immigrant clients, the effects of delays on client-attorney relationships, and potential solutions to the delay crisis. Findings indicated inadequacies in immigration courts and the need for more funding and resources, such as judges, staff training, an online application submission system, and judicial system restructuring. *Capstone Research*

11. A Faith-Based Organization's Engagement of an African American Community in Disaster Preparation

Tronda L. Douglas, PhD, Graduate, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

African American rural communities, which have been adversely impacted by disasters, could minimize personal injuries and property damage by being prepared before a disaster strikes. This exploratory qualitative case study investigated how members of a local faith-based organization organized resources to build a community-based all-volunteer fire department. Findings revealed that the faith-based organization was the hub of activities where social networks organized the social capital needed to engage, recruit, and unite members in building the fire station. *Capstone Research*

12. Alternative to Proctoring in Introductory Statistics Community College Courses

Yelena (Lena) Feinman, PhD, Graduate, The Richard W. Riley College of Education and Leadership

The credibility of unsupervised online exams, which is an ongoing concern in higher education, has been mainly maintained by expensive and inconvenient physical or remote proctoring. This quasi-experimental study examined whether systematically selected nonbiometric security mechanisms can be an alternative to proctoring. Findings suggested that the used mechanisms were effective. *Capstone Research*

13. Perceptions and Experiences of Teachers and Literacy Coaches' Literacy Instruction

April J. Giddens, EdD, Graduate, The Richard W. Riley College of Education and Leadership

Teachers and literacy coaches at a low-performing school identified their needs for effective literacy instruction. Classroom observations, surveys, and interviews were used to collect data. Findings suggested a need for training on classroom management and differentiated instruction and were used to develop a 4-day professional development. *Capstone Research*

14. Parental Self-efficacy, Feeding Practices and Styles, and Obesity in Mexican American Children

Maria C. Goodwin, PhD, Graduate, College of Health Sciences

This study focused on relationships among parental self-efficacy, feeding practices and styles, and childhood obesity, as measured by parental perception of child weight, among Mexican Americans in Texas. The findings showed that feeding practices and styles impacted parents' perception of only their male child's weight. Changes in feeding practices and styles could improve obesity interventions. *Capstone Research*

15. Effects of Micronutrients on the Status of HIV-infected African American Women

Veronica A. Graham, DrPH, Graduate, College of Health Services

The study focused on the use of micronutrients and their effects on the increase or decrease of the CD4 count, viral load, and weight among HIV-infected African American women. The results indicated that HIV-infected African American women have a decreased viral load, an increased CD4 cell count, and they maintained or increased their weight due to the intake of micronutrients. *Capstone Research*

16. Reducing the Number of Nonparticipants in the U.S. Army Reserve

Renata W. Hannah, PhD, Graduate, College of Management and Technology

The nonparticipation of Army Reserve soldiers throughout the United States Army Reserve Command is a critical problem because it results in millions of dollars in lost revenue. Retaining nonparticipant soldiers is a strategic, operational, and tactical priority for Army Reserve leadership. Ten themes emerged from analysis of responses to the 14 interview questions. The participants believed that family, work, and school conflicts were barriers for soldiers not attending battle assembly or extended combat training. Leadership, full-time staff, and first-line leaders working as a team appeared to produce the key results for success. *Capstone Research*

17. Confidence in the Use of Technology of Low-Income First-Year College Students' Retention

Irene M. Hudson, EdD, Graduate, The Richard W. Riley College of Education and Leadership

The purpose of this study was to understand low-income first-year college students' perceived confidence in their use of technology and how it influenced their decision to stay in college. The study was guided by Bruno's confidence-based learning methodology, which suggests a connection between knowledge and confidence. A qualitative descriptive design was used, and data were collected through a series of 10 open-ended interviews with low-income first-year college students. The findings suggested that low-income first-year students do not have confidence in their ability to use technology and remain in college. *Capstone Research*

18. Stakeholder Collaboration Strategies in the Hawaii Tourism Industry

Catherine E. Ka'ehu, DBA, Graduate, College of Management and Technology

Addressing stakeholder concerns is important in promoting the development of sustainable tourism, protection of natural resources, and sustainability of tourism businesses. This qualitative case study incorporated a strategic stakeholder management framework, focusing on exploring strategies that Hawaii tourism industry leaders use for increasing stakeholder participation in sustainable tourism development. Three thematic strategies emerged: (1) establishing relationship management, (2) consistent and effective communication, and (3) partnership programs with a variety of stakeholders. *Capstone Research*

19. Identity Style Preference and Marriage Among Black Americans

Russell T. Klumpp, PhD, Graduate, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Black Americans marry less and divorce more than any other racial demographic in the United States. The purpose of this study was to examine the relationship among identity style preferences, attitudes toward marriage, and marital satisfaction in Black Americans. Identity style was found to be a significant predictor of attitudes toward marriage and marriage satisfaction. *Capstone Research*

20. Systematic Review of Sedation Management in the Pediatric Critical Care Unit

Myrlene Madelon, DNP, Graduate, College of Health Services

Nurses play significant roles in managing sedation in mechanically ventilated patients in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. The purpose of this systematic literature review was to evaluate and synthesize evidence-based research that can be used to adapt pediatric guidelines for sedation management. The results support recommendations for evidence-based practice guidelines in the clinical nursing practice setting. *Capstone Research*

21. Beliefs Influencing Hiring Agents' Selection of Qualified Autistic Candidates

Angela M. Mai, PhD, Graduate, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Qualified and capable working-age people with autism face an 83% unemployment rate, thus, straining the economy and deteriorating their quality of life. Using Ajzen's theory of planned behavior, this research examined potential contributing factors by inquiring what beliefs held by hiring agents may be influencing their selection of qualified autistic candidates. The inclusion of people with autism in organizational diversity, overcoming stereotypes, and fear of embarrassment were the most significant quantitative influencers. *Capstone Research*

22. A Meta-Analysis of Video Based Interventions in Adult Mental Health

Lauretta K. Montes, PhD, Graduate, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

This meta-analysis evaluated the effectiveness of video-based interventions (VBIs) for adults in mental health settings. Effect sizes were computed on use of video exposure (VE), video feedback (VF), video modeling (VM), and psychoeducational videos (PV) in 60 studies of treatment for anxiety, depression, preparation for therapy, caregiving attitude, and other mental health needs. The overall effect size for VBI in adult mental health is 0.34, 95% CI [0.24, 0.45]. Meta-regression of type of VBI did not support VM, VF, or PV as significant predictors, but the type of VBI may actually be a moderator. Subgroup analyses by mental health outcome found the largest effect size, 0.48, for caregiving attitude and the smallest effect size, 0.21, for depression. Video use in mental health therapy for adults may be beneficial in certain circumstances, especially in treating social anxiety and phobias, but more research is needed. *Capstone Research*

23. Professional Development for One-to-One Mobile Technology Programs

LeAnn M. Morris, PhD, Graduate, The Richard W. Riley College of Education and Leadership

One-to-one mobile technology integration is the goal of increasing numbers of school districts each year, and there are many factors to consider when measuring success. The research problem for this qualitative study focused on one of the critical components for measuring success: the need for effective teacher professional development. The key findings revealed that effective one-to-one mobile technology integration requires supportive leadership; building culture and relationships; instructional design with standards and frameworks; building a collaborative, job-embedded teacher agency; and personalized learning with differentiated delivery. *Capstone Research*

24. Community Public-Private Partnership Leadership Synergy in Tanzania

Hawa Yatera Mshana, PhD, Graduate, College of Health Services

Lack of leadership synergy in public-private partnerships (PPP) in health interventions in many developing nations impedes ownership and accountability. The purpose of this study was to understand factors that could promote PPP leadership synergy to promote accountability on community health initiatives in Tanzania. A qualitative empirical case study design was used, and 26 participants responded to in-depth, one-on-one interviews. Related documents were also reviewed. From the content analysis, the key themes were integrated supportive supervision, teamwork, strategic communications, unclear roles, and limited data. Increased awareness and understanding of PPP in health at the community level would promote positive social change. *Capstone Research*

25. Aluminum Production Costs: A Comparative Case Study of Production Strategy

Joseph Ndjebayi, DBA, Graduate, College of Management and Technology

The purpose of this qualitative, multiple comparative case study was to explore the strategies that some aluminum producers might implement to reduce production costs and to sustain the business. Six themes emerged: (1) upstream integration, (2) energy and price efficiency, (3) carbon-manufacturing capability, (4) operational excellence and productivity, (5) technological and research developmental abilities, and (6) circular economy. *Doctoral Capstone*

26. Police Officers' Perceptions of Body-Worn Camera Technology

Jonah E. Obasi, PhD, Graduate, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Police-community relations have received enormous scrutiny based on several high-profile incidents involving the use of deadly force. Law enforcement agencies are called upon to equip local officers with body-worn cameras to increase transparency and accountability. Findings from this hierarchical multiple regression of officers' perceptions of camera use could contribute to positive social change by enhancing police-community relations. *Capstone Research*

27. Students' Perception of a Required Community Service Program in Kenya

Rispa Achieng Odongo, EdD, Graduate, The Richard W. Riley College of Education and Leadership

Although X University initiated a required community service program in 2004, it had not assessed its effectiveness from the students' perspectives. A qualitative case study using Kolb and Kolb's conceptual framework revealed four themes: (1) support for effective community service programs, (2) students' personal growth and development, (3) giving back to society with gratitude, and (4) students' self-awareness in attitude toward the needy. The results suggested that the required community service made a change in students' lives and influenced their attitudes toward being philanthropic. *Capstone Research*

28. Effectiveness of Prisoner Reentry Programs for Reduction of Repeat Incarcerations in Nigeria

Emmanuel Dejo Oluwaniyi, PhD, Graduate, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

The underlying problem was the prevailing high reincarceration rate in Nigeria, despite reentry interventions. The purpose of the research was to evaluate the effectiveness of prisoner reentry programs in reducing reincarcerations. Questions focused on whether treatment and type (faith-and/or nonfaith-based) made a difference in a prisoner's reincarceration status. Findings suggested that reentry programs can reduce reincarceration. *Capstone Research*

29. Hoteliers' Perceptions of Sustainable Practices on Small Hotel Optimization: A Phenomenology Inquiry

Keneika A. Rowe, PhD, Graduate, College of Management and Technology

The purpose of this phenomenological study was to explore and understand the lived experiences of eight small hotel managers on the effect of sustainable practices on small hotel optimization. The findings showed that government assistance was needed to provide funding and education on the benefits of sustainable practices and development. *Capstone Research*

30. Caring for Children Through Medication: Examining the (Over-)Use of Pharmaceuticals in Urban and Rural Ghana

Kelley C. Sams, PhD, Faculty, College of Health Sciences

An ethnographic research project was conducted in Ghana on 30 households with children under 5 years of age. The findings included profiles of the curative and preventive use of medication in young children; how and why these medications were given; and how mothers related this to parenting practices. *Completed Research*

European Research Council's FP7/2007-2013/grant agreement no. 337372 for the Globalmed project (PI Carine Baxerres)

31. Fear, Desire, and Malaria: Examining Chinese Global Health Work in the Comoros

Kelley C. Sams, PhD, Faculty, College of Health Sciences

Ethnographic fieldwork was conducted to investigate a Chinese-led malaria elimination program in the Comoros. The results demonstrated that a shift toward a potential new medical authority brings with it a new image of illness, questions related to the economic value of health, foreign interest in Africa, and changes in geopolitical relationships. *Completed Research*

French National Research Agency (ANR) grant for the research project The Political Life of Commodities (2014-2018: ANR-14-CE29-0006-01), PI Boris Petric

32. Evaluating the Effectiveness of Mental Health Assistance Programs at a Suburban Chicago Fire Department

Christina Spoons, PhD, Faculty, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

This study was an examination of the effectiveness of programs available to personnel at a suburban Chicago fire department to help them cope with stressful situations. Critical incident debriefings and the employee assistance program were included in this evaluation. This mixed-methods study combined purposeful sampling of key informants regarding the use of critical incident stress debriefing sessions after traumatic incidents, the employee assistance program, and an online survey open to all fire personnel on the department. *Completed Research*

33. Nature of Regional Nongovernmental Organizations During the Post-Soviet Transformation in Georgia

Shota Shubladze, PhD, Graduate, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

The results of this qualitative multiple case study were used to increase the knowledge of civil society organizations in regions of the country of Georgia. The study offered recommendations for establishing multisectoral collaboration and enhancing the organizational capacity of regional NGOs, leading to rapid democratization processes and positive social change in Georgia. *Capstone Research*

34. Discipline Patterns in a Public-School District with a History of Disproportionate Suspensions

Barbara M. Slingerland, EdD, Graduate, Richard W. Riley College of Education and Leadership

The purpose of this study was to understand disproportionality in disciplinary procedures as compared with the group's representation in the general population. Discipline patterns were disaggregated by race/ethnicity, gender, age, grade level, disability status, and school location. Characteristics were identified that were associated with disciplinary actions that could account for, or contribute to, disproportionality. The district could use the study results to plan and implement appropriate interventions. The district can also examine their policies to decrease disproportionate disciplinary referral and suspension of each group identified through the data to avoid the negative repercussions associated with such disciplinary measures. *Capstone Research*

35. Development of a Doctoral Internship Program for Walden's Journals

Lee M. Stadlander, PhD, Faculty, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Amy E. Sickel, PhD, Faculty, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Daniel W. Salter, PhD, Staff, Center for Research Quality

To assess whether serving as a peer reviewer affects academic skills, 28 doctoral students were selected as interns for Walden University's four professional journals. Interns reviewed manuscripts every 3 weeks for the 6-month internship and critiqued the reviews of other interns and professional reviewers. The interns improved on multiple skill-based survey measures. *Completed Research*

Hybrid Teaching & Learning Research Grant

36. Blame and Shame: Beliefs That Perpetuate U.S. Health Disparities

Cara Stephenson-Hunter, PhD, Graduate, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

The purpose of this quantitative study was to explore the relationships between locus of control (LOC)—internal, external-chance/powerful others—and health beliefs, behavior, and psychological well-being for marginalized populations as well as to promote the development of appropriately targeted, culturally sensitive health interventions. According to the findings, chance LOC beliefs mediated the relationship between socioeconomics and health lifestyles. High chance beliefs were associated with fewer healthy lifestyle choices than external-powerful others' beliefs, while externality did not offer any psychological protections from anxiety and depression for low socioeconomic populations. *Capstone Research*

37. Strategies for Improving Healthcare Efficiency While Reducing Costs

Jean Calvin Tchatchoua Mbitcha, DBA, Graduate, College of Management and Technology

In comparison to the European healthcare system, the U.S. healthcare system has lower quality care, higher costs, and limited access. The purpose of this case study was to identify the strategies that some healthcare managers use to improve efficiency while reducing costs. Complex adaptive systems theory was used to frame this study. Three strategies emerged: (1) improving the accuracy of information and reports, (2) implementing precise and accurate information, and (3) improving quality. The findings of this study may directly benefit healthcare managers and compel positive social change by providing solutions that may improve overall organizational performance. *Capstone Research*

38. Exploring Factors of Effective Virtual Mentoring of Novice, Rural K–12 Teachers

Kendra B. Turpeinen, PhD, Graduate, The Richard W. Riley College of Education and Leadership

Prior research on new teacher mentoring has focused on in-person mentoring to mediate rates of teacher attrition. Yet few studies have explored virtual mentoring of novice teachers, especially novice rural teachers. The purpose of this qualitative case study was to explore how the virtual mentoring of novice rural teachers through digital tools reflected Hudson's five-factor model of mentoring. Key findings showed virtual mentoring provided novice teachers with flexibility, responsive mentoring, and a professional learning community for sharing resources, receiving affective support, engaging in reflection, and developing pedagogical and system knowledge through modeling and feedback. *Capstone Research*

39. Nurses' Perception of Their Role in Patient Safety: A Grounded Theory Study

Janeane L. Walker, PhD, Graduate, College of Health Services

Patient safety was first recognized nationally as a problem when it was highlighted in the landmark report, *To Err is Human*, in 1999; patients were being harmed by preventable errors. Understanding the nurses' perceptions of their roles in safety and why medical errors continue to happen can lead to the reduction of medical errors and prevent events harmful to patients. *Capstone Research*

40. Predictive Relationships Between Cultural Coping Strategies, Intimate Partner Violence, and Depression in African American Women

Tiffany L. Wiggin, PhD, Graduate, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Intimate partner violence (IPV) against women has been linked to long-term, negative health consequences such as depression, PTSD, and suicidal ideation. The growing perception that African American women are the most affected by IPV is not confirmed by existing research. The purpose of this nonexperimental, correlational study was to examine the predictive relationships among cultural coping strategies, IPV, and participants' level of depression. The findings indicated that, of the three predictors, only spiritual coping and IPV were statistically significant predictors of depression. *Capstone Research*

41. The Relationship Between Principals' Leadership Characteristics and Colorado's Standardized Test Scores

Wayne Wolf, PhD, Graduate, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Researchers have documented that high expectations do not always result in higher achievement, but the reason for varying results has not been clearly understood. This correlational study found that the degree of presence of the principal leadership characteristics of beneficial modeling, inspirational motivation, systems thinking, individualized consideration, and empowerment can predict whether high expectations are effective or not. *Capstone Research*

42. Predictors of Incarceration for African American Males Aging Out of Foster Care

Marylean Wrotten, PhD, Graduate, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

The purpose of this quantitative correlational study was to determine how connection to adults, educational attainment, and homelessness predicted the likelihood of incarceration for African American males ($N = 504$) within 3 years after aging out of foster care group homes. Findings showed that connection to adults, educational attainment, and homelessness were not statistically significant predictors of incarceration for African American males 3 years after aging out of foster care group home. *Capstone Research*

ROUNDTABLE SESSIONS

1. Opening Doors: Prejudice and Inclusion

Nina Spadaro, EdD, Faculty, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Rives Thornton, MS, LPC, Walden University alumnus from the School of Counseling

This project explores the historical legacy and the contemporary manifestations of ethnic and racial intolerance, and misunderstanding of the “other,” in a community in northwest Washington State. Through a series of events at various sites for college and community, the project will seek to raise the awareness of both the historical and contemporary manifestations of prejudice and to contribute to an environment of understanding and compassion. A culminating e-book will feature the history, personal experiences, and voices from the community, as told through video, images, artistic expression.

Co-Investigators:

Paul Englesberg, EdD, Faculty, The Richard W. Riley College of Education and Leadership

Andrea Beilner, MS, Student in the MS in Clinical Mental Health Counseling program

2. Disclosure and Stigma in Online Environment: Perceptions of Students With Disabilities and Staff Who Work in Disability Units in Higher Education.

Susana Verdinelli, PhD, Faculty, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Carolyn M. Roney, Staff, Office of Disability Services

The purpose of this qualitative study is to understand the decision-making process of disability disclosure and to explore the experiences of stigmatization among adult learners with disabilities enrolled in online programs. Additionally, it will explore how staff who work in the Office of Disability Services in higher education institutions perceive students' disclosure and stigma in this learning format. Understanding how students' perception of stigma interacts with disability disclosure in online programs may help academic institutions better meet these students' needs, improve the quality of their academic experiences, and increase their retention and degree completion rate.

MEET-AND-GREET OPPORTUNITIES

Because the symposium is a coming-together of researchers and scholars across the university, we also want to provide some additional information on opportunities in this area.

ACADEMIC JOURNALS

Members of the editorial teams from each of the five Walden-sponsored academic journals will be available to answer any journal-related questions.

- *The Journal of Social Change (JSC)* is Walden's flagship journal dedicated to advancing the core mission of the university.
- *The International Journal of Applied Management and Technology (IJAMT)* serves to advance knowledge and applied practices within the fields of management and technology on an international scale.
- *The Journal of Educational Research and Practice (JERAP)* provides a forum for studies and dialogue that allows readers to better develop social change in the field of education and learning.
- *The Journal of Social, Behavioral, and Health Sciences (JSBHS)* advances positive change across a variety of professional disciplines that contribute to improving the quality of daily life.
- *The Journal of Social Work in the Global Community (JSWGC)* provides a forum to publish original research, literature reviews, and thought pieces on the practice of international social work with a focus on social change.

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