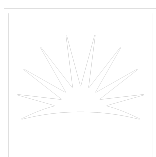


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UNIVERSITY  
Mary Ann Swetland Center  
for Environmental Health

# The Swetland Scoop

July 2024

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## News & Announcements

Meet Our New Staff!



Meet our new **Director of Operations and Partnerships, Dr. Ivory Simms.**

Ivory joined the Swetland Center in June bringing to our team extensive experience in operations leadership, sustainability, and food systems innovation. Ivory completed her PhD in Designing Sustainable Systems at the CWRU Weatherhead School of Management and an MBA from Georgia State University. Email Ivory at [ijs34@case.edu](mailto:ijs34@case.edu) to sign up for a 30 minute meet and greet with her.

Anvitha joined the Swetland Center in June to assist the REACH project and the Nourishing Power Network. Anvitha is from India and is interested in studying agro-ecological farming practices across the globe, with a particular emphasis on India. She is a PhD student in Sociology and Freedman Student Fellow at CWRU. In her spare time, Anvitha likes playing volleyball, swimming, or relaxing at home.



## Launching Produce Path in Select Counties in Ohio

The Swetland Center team launched the Produce Path app in partnership with farmers markets in Cuyahoga, Summit, Portage, Medina, and Stark counties as part of our REACH project and the Ohio SNAP-Ed Produce Path Implementation Study. These projects seek evaluate how Produce Path can help connect families to fresh and healthy food at farmers markets. Download the Produce Path app [here](#) or learn more on our website [here](#).



The Produce Path Implementation Study includes five community champions from the participating counties. These champions will promote and provide education about the Produce Path app at farmers markets and within their local communities from June to September 2024.

*Picture on Left: Christi Hodge, a community champion, in action at the North Canton Farmers Market!*

Please click [here](#) to see if you are eligible to join the Produce Path Implementation Study.

### Do you want to help promote the study?

Feel free to share our [recruitment flier](#) and the [link](#) to sign up for the study or connect with our team at [producepath@case.edu](mailto:producepath@case.edu).

*Picture on Right: Dr. Ivory Simms and Brianna Williams spreading the word about Produce Path at a community health fair in Garfield Heights, Ohio.*



## Congratulations to the Nourishing Power Fellowship Team!





are available [on our website](#) for viewing. These eight fellows were also honored with the Nutrition Equity Innovation Prize by the Nutrition Equity Fund of the Nourishing Power Network. Their innovative leadership and vision for food justice in Greater Cleveland have been recognized and rewarded. Our deepest gratitude goes to our fellowship training team - Linea Webb, Morgan Taggart, Michael Walton, and Tommy Oddo - for guiding this program within the Nourishing Power Network. We also extend our heartfelt thanks to the families, friends, community partners, and mentors who supported these food justice leaders in the past and will continue to do so in their future endeavors towards creating a food system that works for everyone.

## Events and Opportunities

The Mary Ann Swetland Center for Environmental Health Seminar Series Presents:

### Seeding Fresh Ideas for Food Justice: Lessons from the Nourishing Power Fellowship

**July 16, 2024 | 9:00 AM | Virtual**

Join us for a panel discussion with graduates and facilitators of the Nourishing Power Fellowship, a 6-month program that sought to increase access to networks and resources among emergent leaders from Asian, Black, Indigenous, and Latino/a/e communities, who are innovating food systems change. Hear about the impact of this experience and the lessons learned along the way.

#### Panelists:



Danie White  
Fellowship Graduate



Michael Walton  
Fellowship Co-Facilitator



Ms. Mikki Smith  
Fellowship Graduate



#### Moderated by:



Selena Awesome  
Vicario  
Fellowship Graduate



Trey Williams  
Fellowship Graduate



Morgan Taggart  
Fellowship Co-Facilitator

### Seeding Fresh Ideas for Food Justice: Lessons from the Nourishing Power Fellowship

**Date:** July 16th, 2024

**Time:** 9:00-10:00am

**Location:** Virtual (Zoom)

**Panelists:** Danie White, Michael Walton, Ms. Mikki Smith, Selena Awesome Vicario & Trey Williams

**Moderator:** Morgan Taggart

[Register Here](#)



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REGISTER HERE:  
<https://tinyurl.com/JulySwetlandSeminar>

This is a free monthly learning opportunity that is open to the public.







# Join Us!

## for an Open House & Meeting

Free & Open to the Public

Join the **OH/PA University Research Consortium** for our second state of the science update. Together, we will:

- Hear what we've learned by analyzing soil and sediment data collected after the train derailment in East Palestine.
- Meet researchers funded by NIH doing studies in response to the derailment.
- Brainstorm ideas for future research that aligns with community interests.

***Refreshments will be provided.***

### July 23<sup>rd</sup> 2024

### 4:00-7:00 PM

### East Palestine High School Gymnasium

360 W. Grant Street

East Palestine, OH

#### AGENDA

4-5pm: Meet with Researchers

5-6pm: Presentations

6-7pm: Meet with Researchers

RSVP by visiting <https://tinyurl.com/yp9s2uvz>  
or scan the QR code. →



# Workshop: Produce Prescriptions 101

up for a free technical assistance session to help you start or improve your produce prescription program!

**August 14, 2024**  
**12:00-1:30pm**  
**Virtual (Zoom)**

Are you a grower, food product maker, nutrition educator, or other professional in Cuyahoga County who wants to partner with a produce prescription program?

Are you a clinical professional in Cuyahoga County who wants to improve your produce prescription program or start a new one?

Join us for a workshop facilitated by Produce Perks Midwest to learn about produce prescriptions:

- Benefits
- Costs
- Program Models
- How to Get Started



**Register here!**



<https://forms.gle/QwNdCENAg31dSaF39>

## Questions?

Email us at [reach@case.edu](mailto:reach@case.edu)

This workshop is funded by a REACH grant (#6 NU58DP007747-01-01) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, through the Cuyahoga County Board of Health.

# WE ARE HIRING!

## REACH Fellowship Co-Facilitator

- Assist with developing the curriculum for the REACH Fellowship.
- Co-facilitate a 6-month Fellowship for 4 teams of 2 who want to create a new produce prescription program in Cuyahoga County.
- Part-time consultant position and eligible for hybrid work (~4 hrs/wk).
- Experience with produce prescriptions or working in a healthcare setting preferred.
- Contract timeline: June 2024 - September 2025
- Estimated payment: \$3,000 (by September 2024, additional compensation in Year 2 of the grant)



LEARN MORE HERE  
+ APPLY!



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The Swetland Center is hiring for a Co-Facilitator for the REACH Fellowship. The Co-Facilitator will support with adapting the Nourishing Power Fellowship curriculum for the REACH Fellowship, with a focus on supporting teams of two who want to expand their existing produce prescription program, or create a new produce prescription program in Cuyahoga County. The Co-Facilitator will support recruitment and selection of fellows for the REACH Fellowship, facilitating training workshops, and supporting fellows as they move from a vision to an action plan. The Co-Facilitator will also participate in the Produce Prescription Working Group (Nutrition Equity Committee) of the Health Improvement Partnership-Cuyahoga (HIP-C), to advance policy change in Cuyahoga County that supports produce prescription programs.

For more information on the position, [click here](#). To apply, send your resume and cover letter to [reach@case.edu](mailto:reach@case.edu).

## Hot Off the Press

### Recent Publications

**Check out the main outcomes paper of a multi-state study with community-engaged research expertise from Swetland Center faculty and staff in**



The HEALing Communities Study Consortium. (2024) [Community-based cluster-randomized trial to reduce opioid overdose deaths](#). *New England Journal of Medicine*; in press.

### **Swetland Center Director quoted in recent article about East Palestine, Ohio.**

Riley, K. (June 26, 2024). [Norfolk Southern blasted by government: East Palestine reeling from crisis management failures](#). *Transportation Today*.

From the article -

*Darcy Freedman, a professor and director of the Mary Ann Swetland Center for Environmental Health at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, said that most of the publicly available data are on environmental measures of contaminants that might be found within the air, water, plant tissue, soil, and sediment following the train derailment and controlled burn.*

*“While there is a lot of publicly available data, there are gaps in the measurement approach (e.g., placement of monitors, inconsistent measurements at different times and places, etc.) that limit interpretation of findings,” she said.*

*“Additionally, we do not know the concentration and duration of exposure among residents to any of the potential contaminants because of the survey data collection approach used to examine human health impacts,” Freedman added.*

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## Recent Conferences



Dr. Shannon Walker (left) and Dr. Emily Nelson attended the Sunbelt 2024 Conference organized by the International Network for Social Network Analysis in Edinburgh, Scotland to connect the dots between several of the center's research projects with the latest methods in network analysis.

International Conference on Knowledge, Culture, and Change in Organizations in Lisbon, Portugal. The conference theme focused on "The Future We Want: Organizational Responsibilities for Climate Responses."



## Swetland Spotlights

### Swetland Center Advisory Council



*Many thanks to our Swetland Center Advisory Council for their strategic guidance. Our Advisory Council includes friends and partners of the Swetland Center bringing their gifts and wisdom to shape future directions of the Center.*



Ruth Swetland Eppig is Chair of the Swetland Center Advisory Council and daughter of Mary Ann Swetland. We celebrated the 35th anniversary of the Mary Ann Swetland Professorship in Environmental Health Sciences at our April 2024 Advisory Council meeting. This professorship was conferred by the CWRU Board of Trustees in December 2023 reappointing Dr. Darcy Freedman to the role.

## Swetland Trainee Heading to Medical School

During the spring of 2022, Thendral Veerasekar joined the Swetland team to work on the Emergency Food Assistance and Food Security (EFAFS) study under the supervision of Dr. Owusua Yamoah. Thendral supported the team with literature reviews, interviews with study participants, data analysis, and manuscript writing. This fall, Thendral will be attending Chicago Medical School at Rosalind Franklin University. She hopes to continue supporting the local community there! Congratulations, Thendral! We are proud of your accomplishment.





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