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MARY ANN SWETLAND  
CENTER FOR  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

# The Swetland Scoop

June 2020

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## News & Announcements

### A Reflection from Our Director

Dear Swetland Partners and Friends,

When we wrote our P50 grant in November 2019, we had a unifying question for environmental health equity – What makes it hard to breathe here? While air pollution was certainly a major concern, our team agreed that air quality was not the only environmental factor that makes it hard to breathe in Cleveland.

Our systems science approach provides some tools for seeing the complexity of systems that structure behavior such that the same outcome is achieved in diverse settings again and again. In systems science we call this the reference mode. Reference modes do not change by changing one parameter at a time. One more “good” cop or one more body camera will not result in a new reference mode.

The horrific death of George Floyd last week. Growing evidence of inequities in

COVID-19 cases. Lending policies that systematically block opportunities for wealth. Mass incarceration approaches that break families and communities. Development plans that place polluters more frequently than parks. Education systems that fail children. These are the products of a system in fundamental need of repair.

During the Food Policy Coalition convening last Friday, Frances Mills, Director of Minority Health with the Cleveland Department of Health and a member of the Swetland Center Advisory Council shared insights about restructuring systems toward equity. She pointed to the need for diverse tables that are open, engaging, and action oriented. Further, Frances reminded us to continually ask questions including who is benefitting and who is harmed as well as what is achieved by this action and what are the unintended consequences?

“I am because you are” is an African philosophy I’m drawn to because of its inherent focus on connectivity. It reminds us that our humanity is bound together.

My door is open now and always. I know we have wounds to heal within our own team as we engage in broader equity work in the community. I am committed now more than ever to be a resource for growing the political will and financial commitment as well as changing mindsets and heart sets needed to dismantle and rebuild our systems such that the benefits and burdens are fairly distributed.

In justice and solidarity,



Darcy Freedman, PhD, MPH

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**(PSE READI) will be Included in the SNAP–Ed 2020 Toolkit!**  
**The PSE Readiness Assessment and Decision Instrument**

PSE READI was  
selected for inclusion  
in the SNAP-Ed  
Toolkit in FY 20



Visit [snapedtoolkit.org](https://snapedtoolkit.org)  
to learn more!

**PSE READI** tool for statewide use in early 2019 and it was selected to be included in the 2020 National SNAP-Ed Toolkit of evidence-based interventions. BCOP began in 2014 as a partnership between CWRU, The Ohio State University SNAP-Ed Program, and the Ohio Department of Public Health Creating Healthy Communities (CHC)

Program. The aim of the project is to develop decision and diagnostic tools that can be used by SNAP-Ed and CHC practitioners as they implement and sustain nutrition-related policy, systems, and environmental (PSE) interventions. The accomplishment of being included in the SNAP-Ed Toolkit is the result of several years of work developing, testing, training, and disseminating BCOP research.

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## The Swetland Center Welcomes Summer Trainees!

As we all continue to adapt to our new normal, the Swetland Center is more committed than ever to building capacity for the next generation of scientists to work alongside our community partners to promote healthy places for people to thrive by integrating environmental health and community systems science into medical and graduate education. This summer the Swetland Center will host trainees who will be immersed in engaging and thought-provoking experiences to enhance awareness of and skills to address the environment's disparate impact on communities and populations. The 2020 trainees will include:

- CWRU School of Medicine Students – **Deidhre Clayton** and **Carolina Lemos**
  - CWRU Public Health Nutrition Dietetic Intern – **Jiada Zhan**
  - Swetland Center Summer Interns – **Carlos Lewis-Miller (CWRU)**, **Rachel Wyetnzer (CWRU)**, **Emma Wallens (CWRU)**, and **Maya Williams (John Carroll University)**
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## Elizabeth Benninger Published in a Special Issue of the Global Journal of Community Psychology Practice

Elizabeth Benninger was a post-doctoral scholar from July 2018 – January 2020 at the Swetland Center, where her research efforts focused on the foodNEST 2.0 and BCOP projects along with developing her independent research related to community health. She recently transitioned to an NIH-sponsored T32 research fellowship position at Case's School of Medicine which supports her to further her training and implementation of community-based research in health promotion. Elizabeth worked on a surf therapy study as a part of her postdoctoral scholar position while at Center. Read more about Elizabeth and check out her publication [HERE](#).



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*Be sure to keep up with Swetland news through our online [News & Events](#) page!*

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## Events & Opportunities

### FreshLink Ambassador Technical Assistance Webinar

June 5th | 1:30 – 2:30 PM EST

Interested in engaging community members with outreach, promotion, and education for your market's nutrition incentive program? Experts will present on two different community outreach programs: [FreshLink](#) Ambassadors and Food Navigators that employ community members to spread the word about how to access fresh, healthy, locally grown food. Hosted by the National Farmers' Market Coalition and the Michigan Farmers' Market Association, join us to learn about the FreshLink Approach as well as the Food Navigator Program. Register [HERE](#)!

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## Green Space, Health & Well-Being: A Discussion on the Impact of Green Space Exposure on Health Outcomes

June 9th | 2:00 – 3:30 PM EST

The Swetland Center is excited to facilitate a virtual discussion on the impact of green space on health and to gain a better understanding of current work within the topic area. Swetland staff have spent two months researching current literature and publications relevant to this topic and are excited to share their findings. If you feel that your work or passions intersect public health issues and green space development, please attend this event so your voice can be heard! The goal of this interactive webinar is to have an open conversation that is both informative and productive for considering how this information may further the goals of your organization and our broader goals of improving access to green space in the Greater Cleveland community. Register [HERE!](#)

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### Swetland Seminar: Ohio Produce Perks Statewide Evaluation

June 23rd | 9:00 – 10:00 AM EST

Learn how Ohio's SNAP incentive program, Produce Perks, has impacted the food systems and food access throughout Ohio and within Cleveland neighborhoods. Access this event via Zoom by following this link. This virtual seminar will be presented by: Lauren Vargo – Swetland Center for Environmental Health & Amanda Osborne – Ohio State University Extension in Cuyahoga County. View the seminar [HERE](#).

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## Helpful Resources

### EcoAmerica Webcast Series: Let's Talk Climate

EcoAmerica is introducing [Let's Talk Climate](#) to provide guidance and support to climate activists as they seek to expand public support and

Climate features seven topics: nature/science, health, communities, faith, politics, people, and leadership in rotating weekly sessions with empowering information and fresh ideas. To register for this monthly event, go [HERE](#).



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## ReStart CLE – Cleveland Coronavirus Strategic Recovery Plan and Reopening Updates

Mayor Frank Jackson released the ReStart Cleveland plan in early May. The nine-page strategic recovery plan has three main principles: to minimize the suffering on businesses who were impacted by COVID, preparing the Cleveland communities to take advantage of recovery efforts, and making sure people and businesses are better off as a result of the recovery efforts to create a more equitable communities. You can find the full plan [HERE](#). Additionally, select City of Cleveland Recreation centers and city-sponsored activities will begin reopening July 6th.

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*Have an opportunity you'd like us to feature in our next newsletter?*

*We are accepting content submissions! You can find the submission form [here](#).*

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## Swetland Spotlight

**Swetland Faculty Affiliate, Jill Clark,  
Awarded Fulbright U.S. Scholar Award**

Jill Clark, PhD, associate professor in the John Glenn College of Public Affairs at The Ohio State University, has been awarded a Fulbright U.S. Scholar Award to Canada for “Scaling-up food democracy: An analysis of Canadian and U.S. food policy councils.” Clark will be researching at



national food policy. Her work will involve engaging with the Canadian Food Governance project team, conducting interviews and drawing cross-country comparisons from the U.K. and Australia. The [Fulbright Program](#) is the international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government and is designed to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries. Jill Clark is a Faculty Affiliate of

the Swetland Center and is a Co-Investigator on the Modeling the Future of Food in Your Neighborhood Study ([foodNEST 2.0](#)).  
Congratulations!



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