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**CASE WESTERN RESERVE
UNIVERSITY**
Mary Ann Swetland Center
for Environmental Health

The Swetland Scoop

March 2025

We moved to the MidTown Collaboration Center!



The Swetland Center officially moved into our new home, the MidTown Collaboration Center (MCC)! The MCC is a purpose-driven collaboration and partnership that aims to bring together multiple sectors, companies and disciplines under one roof. It is a new model for a “both / and” approach to economic development that centers around community.

Visit Us on the 3rd Floor

The Swetland Center is located in Suite 300 within CWRU's Institute for Population and Community Health.

Monday - Friday: 7:00 AM to 7:30 PM

Saturday: 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Sunday: Closed (Except for Restaurant & Brewery - when they open later this spring).

Parking

There is ample free parking in and around the MCC. The MCC lot has spaces for 120 people including 5 handicap accessible spaces. Overflow parking is available in the gravel lot off East 65th St.

News & Announcements

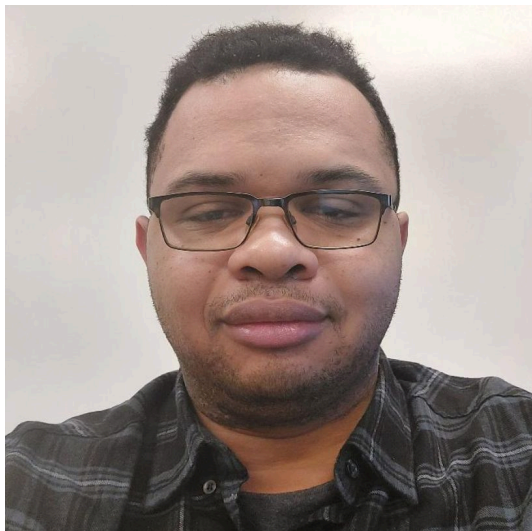
Welcome to our New SNAP-Ed Program Assistants



Welcome Megan Milo!

Megan joined the team in February with a wealth of teaching and education expertise with children and adults.

Fun Facts: Megan is a trained yoga instructor and enjoys outdoor spaces. Her favorites include the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Rocky River Reservation, and Bath Nature Preserve. Her goal is to hike every trail of the CVNP.



Welcome Willie Swift!

Willie joined the SNAP-Ed team in February with a wealth of public health experience focused on mental health and evaluation services.

Fun Facts: Willie enjoys outdoor spaces in Cleveland. His favorite is Cleveland Metroparks and currently exploring other parks in Cuyahoga Valley.

Join our SNAP-Ed Team

WE ARE HIRING!

SNAP-ED PROGRAM ASSISTANTS

The Ohio SNAP-Education program is coming back to Cuyahoga County and you should join us!

Case Western Reserve University is **hiring Program Assistants** to lead and engage in nutrition education classes and programmatic work throughout the county.



LEARN MORE HERE
+ APPLY!



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This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



We are currently recruiting one SNAP-Ed Program Assistant, with high preference for someone who is Spanish-speaking! The Program Assistant will provide direct nutrition and physical activity educational programming (e.g., teaching standardized classes) and Policy, Systems, and Environmental (PSE) interventions (e.g. school gardens, choice food pantries, promoting SNAP at farmers markets) with local, community-based partners in areas of high food insecurity throughout Cuyahoga County. The educational programming and PSE interventions will serve SNAP-eligible individuals of various demographics in a variety of community settings and will use USDA approved, standardized curriculum and evidence-based PSE approaches to improve access to nutritious food and physical activity opportunities.

If you have any questions, please contact Megan Dzurec at med182@case.edu!

Events & Opportunities

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

Analyzing Soil Contamination After Major Combustion Events

March 18, 2025 | 9:00 AM | Virtual



Myron Lard, Jr., PhD

Postdoctoral Research Scholar
Department of Forestry and
Environmental Resources
North Carolina State
University



CASE WESTERN RESERVE
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Mary Ann Swetland Center
for Environmental Health

Analyzing Soil Contamination After Major Combustion Events

Date: Tuesday, March 18, 2025

Time: 9:00 - 10:00 am

Location: Virtual (Zoom)

Presenter: Myron Lard, Jr., PhD

In the wake of the Norfolk Southern train derailment on February 3, 2023, in East Palestine, Ohio, significant environmental concerns have emerged due to chemical spills and subsequent open-air combustions. This study focuses on the analyses of soil samples collected within a two-mile radius of the incident site to assess the presence and concentration levels of environmentally persistent free radicals (EPFRs) and dioxins/furans, two harmful byproducts of combustion processes.

[Register Here](#)

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

Harnessing the Power of Constructive Conflict among Community- Institutional Partnerships

Speakers:



Michael Walton

Facilitator, Catalyst, Coach
Catalytic Change Link



Darcy Freedman,
PhD, MPH

Director

Mary Ann Swetland Center
for Environmental Health
School of Medicine, Case
Western Reserve University



**CASE WESTERN RESERVE
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Mary Ann Swetland Center
for Environmental Health

April 15, 2025 || 9 - 11 AM

CWRU Institute for Population & Community Health

MidTown Collaboration Center

1974 E 66th Street, Cleveland, OH 44103

3rd Floor Classrooms A & B

Free parking in the lot behind the building.

In-Person Only!

Join us for an engaging workshop to:

1. Identify how conflict can be productive to innovate solutions through community-institutional partnerships.
2. Apply tools for preventing and treating destructive conflict in community-institutional partnerships.
3. Identify core features of a relationship building and conflict management approach relevant for unique projects among workshop participants.

We encourage you to participate with your team!

Coffee, fruit, and pastries provided.



Register here

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

tinyurl.com/Apr2025Seminar

Harnessing the Power of Constructive Conflict among Community-Institutional Partnerships

Date: Tuesday, April 15, 2025

Time: 9:00 - 11:00 am

Location: 1974 E 66th Street, Cleveland, OH 44103 (in person only)

Speakers: Michael Walton and Dr. Darcy Freedman

Join us at the new MidTown Collaboration Center for an engaging workshop to:

-
2. Apply tools for preventing and treating destructive conflict in community-institutional partnerships.
3. Identify core features of a relationship building and conflict management approach relevant for unique projects among workshop participants.

We encourage you to participate with your team! Coffee, fruit, and pastries provided.

[Register Here](#)

Spread the Word: CTSC's Community Research Career Day

SAVE THE DATE

COMMUNITY RESEARCH CAREER DAY

WEDNESDAY
APRIL 9, 2025
9:00AM - 1:00PM

CLEVELAND STATE
UNIVERSITY
GLASSCOCK BALLROOM

The CTSC of Northern Ohio invites community health workers and researchers to connect with leaders in community-based research:

- Spotlight on careers in Clinical Research
- Showcase of Community-Engaged Research Initiatives



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Clinical and Translational
Science Collaborative

SCAN OR CLICK TO
REGISTER!

Hot Off the Press

Check out our Latest Publications

Nicky Lewis, Barry Eggleston, Redonna K. Chandler, Dawn Goddard-Eckrich, Jamie E. Luster, Dacia D. Beard, Emma Rodgers, Rouba Chahine, Philip M. Westgate, Shoshana N. Benjamin, JaNae Holloway, Thomas Clarke, R. Craig Lefebvre, Michael D. Stein, Donald W. Helme, Jennifer Reynolds, Sharon L. Walsh, **Darcy Freedman**, Nabila El-

Harness, Ben Wilburn, Kelli Bursey, Kristin Mattson, Sarah Mann, Rebecca D. Jackson, Aimee Shadwick, Katherine Calver, Deborah Chassler, Jennifer Kimball, Nancy Regan, Jeffrey H. Samet, Rachel Sword-Cruz, Michael D. Slater (2024). Stigma and efficacy beliefs regarding opioid use disorder treatment and naloxone in communities participating in the HEALing Communities Study intervention. *PLoS ONE* 19(12): e0308965. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0308965>

The CWRU School of Medicine Magazine recently published a feature story on the legacy of the Mary Ann Swetland Center for Environmental Health. Check out the article online [here](#).

Convening for change

Swetland Center connects
researchers and community to strive for
environmental health equity

Darcy Freedman, PhD, was nervous as she walked into The Way Station Inc., a community center in East Palestine, Ohio. It was April 10, 2023—more than a year after a train carrying toxic chemicals had derailed in the small Ohio town. The environmental crisis attracted international attention and sent its residents reeling. And they had very little in the way of trust to bolster confidence in Freedman.

But Freedman, an applied population health scientist and community psychologist by training, forged ahead. As the director of the Mary Ann Swetland Center

for Environmental Health at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, her goal that night was to connect the community affected by the crisis with the researchers and stakeholders who could help them recover.

Looking out at the room full of concerned citizens, Freedman asked what they needed to begin that recovery process.

"They wanted more research, and they were asking questions: Why didn't the agencies take blood draws? Why didn't they do urine samples? Why don't we have these biomarkers?" said Freedman.

Continued on page 16



The 2023 train derailed in East Palestine, Ohio. (Photo by National Transportation Safety Board)



Learn more about the Swetland Center

“

They wanted more research, and they were asking questions:

Why didn't the agencies take blood draws?

Why didn't they do urine samples?

Why don't we have these biomarkers?”

Conference Highlights



Katie Poppe, MPH, RD and Megan Dzurec, MPH (far right) from the CWRU SNAP-Ed team, along with our Ohio State University SNAP-Ed partners, won second place for the 'Nutrition is...' poster contest at the ASNNA annual meeting in Las Vegas, NV. The poster highlighted two community nutrition technologies developed by our team to support policy, systems, and environmental interventions: [PSE READI](#) and [Produce Path](#).

Swetland Spotlight

Shout out to our SNAP-Ed Partners in Cuyahoga County: **The Centers (Liberty)** and **Greater Cleveland Food Bank!**



activity program for residents living in supportive housing offered by The Centers.

She hosts weekly sessions with activities like mindful movement, nutrition bingo, and cooking classes featuring recipes like black bean brownies (shown here).



Martinique Mims (center) is featured with Willie Swift (left) and Megan Milo (right), all Program Assistants with our SNAP-Education program. In honor of Black History Month, Martinique integrated soul food recipes into her nutrition education programming at the Greater Cleveland Food Bank.

CWRU SNAP-Ed Program

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Education Program (**SNAP-Ed**) strives to help people make nutritious food choices and be active on a limited budget. It is funded by the USDA and operates in all 50 states, DC, Guam, and the Virgin Islands.

Who is eligible for SNAP-Ed?

- People with low income currently receiving SNAP or qualify for SNAP
- People receiving other federal benefits, such as Medicaid or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families.
- Communities where >50% of the population have income at 200% or below the federal poverty line.

What Does SNAP-Ed Programming Look Like?

SNAP-Ed offers a variety of interactive activities, including nutrition education and physical activity classes, social marketing campaigns, and efforts to improve community policies and systems. Key features of our direct education approach:

- Free programming, including all materials.
- Lessons that are 45-60 minutes for adults, 30 minutes for youth.
- A series of 3+ lessons to promote learning and behavior change.
- Lessons introduce MyPlate and explore components of a nutritious diet, including fruits and vegetables, whole grains, lean protein, and dairy.
- Additional topics: stretching family food dollars, shopping/cooking to promote health, planning meals at home, cooking nutritious meals for one, and steps to be active.

Contact our team at med182@case.edu to learn more!

This material was funded by USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - SNAP. CWRU's SNAP-Ed program is in partnership with The Ohio State University. CWRU is an equal opportunity provider.



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OHIO
SNAP-ED

Contact Megan Dzurec (med182@case.edu) to learn more about the SNAP-Ed program.



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