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MARY ANN SWETLAND
CENTER FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

The Swetland Scoop

October 2021

News & Announcements

Varied Impact of COVID-19 on Food Security Calls for Tailored Municipal Response

The Food Security and COVID-19 Study – a supplement to foodNEST 2.0 – found that the pandemic shed light on enduring food security problems in Cuyahoga County and that, despite a common shock like COVID-19, food initiatives require tailored interventions to the unique environment of each community. Furthermore, the supplement found that the pace at which we achieve community vitality in the wake of the pandemic depends on whether we deploy strategies that fully tackle the reality and the root causes of food insecurity. The data brief contains suggested actions that communities can take to tackle the reality and the root causes of food insecurity. The findings are based on data collected between March and May 2021. We invite you to use the [Data Brief](#) on our website to guide local responses.

Funding Awarded to "From Farmers to Families Study"

Congratulations to Swetland Center's Owusua Yamoah for being awarded funding for

her "From Farmers to Families (F-cube)" Study. This work will explore

the collaborative efforts between distributors, farmers, food banks and distributions sites in the implementation of the Farmers to Families program and the impacts of the program on implementation sites and households in Ohio and Michigan through interviews with food pantry managers, distributors, farmers, and households in both states. This study is funded by the Nutrition and Obesity Policy Research and Evaluation Network (NOPREN) Coordinating Center at the University of California San

Francisco's Center for Vulnerable Populations. [Learn about the study here!](#)



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

Events & Opportunities

National Speakers Featured in October 2021 Seminar

Embracing an Ecosocial Worldview: Examples of Community Engaged Teaching, Practice, and Research for Environmental Health Equity

Join us on October 26th for the Swetland Seminar Series, featuring Dr. Shanondora Billiot, Assistant Professor at Arizona State University, and Dr. Meredith C.F. Powers, Assistant Professor at University of North Carolina, Greensboro. During their seminar, Dr. Billiot and Dr. Powers will be addressing the history of environmental, economic, and racial injustices, as well as highlighting community engaged research and practice examples of working towards environmental health equity, particularly in Indigenous and other marginalized populations.

Dr. Billiot and Dr. Powers will also be hosting a training consultation following their seminar, where they will help attendees explore current and historical environmental concerns and reflect on how to embrace and apply a more ecosocial worldview in the context of research, teaching, practice, and policy change. Visit the event page to learn more about the seminar, training consultation, and our speakers!

Save the Date: foodNEST & Friends Virtual Convening

December 1 | 9 – 11:00 am



Join us in celebrating the successes of the foodNEST team and partners on December 1st, 2021. We are eager to share the findings from foodNEST 2.0, a four-year study focused on developing tools and strategies that support a more equitable food system in Cleveland. foodNEST 2.0 builds on the learnings from foodNEST 1.0 (2015–2017), which explored how food retail environments affect community health. Details about this event and registration will be shared soon.

Swetland Research to be Presented at the American Public Health Association Conference



Congratulations to Swetland Center trainees and staff: Eun Kyung Lee, PhD, Abigail Roche, MS, RDN, Lauren Vargo, MUPD, and India Gil, MPH, for being accepted to present at the American Public Health Associated Conference (APHA) 2021. The Annual Meeting will highlight research under this year's theme "Creating the Healthiest Nation: Strengthening Social Connectedness." Swetland Poster Presentations are included in the sessions titled 'Produce for the People: Leveraging Innovative Programs to Increase Produce Consumption and Promote Health' and 'Community Health Planning and Policy Development.' To learn more about the presentations, visit our [News & Events](#) page.



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