

KETNER EMERGING LEADERS UPDATES

2018-19 COHORT



Makayla Cook

Through my work with Volunteer Corps, a community service-based club here at CofC, I'd like to urge for more attention towards reproductive health for women in our community. This is a pressing issue my executive board and I have observed, especially as it relates to sexual assault. I believe there would be a significant reduction of sexual abuse and improved reproductive health if sex education for adolescents placed more emphasis on concepts such as consent, boundaries, menstruation, etc.—critical concepts that aren't being communicated through an abstinence-only education. The rudimentary run-downs of sex we see in our public schools aren't preventing misconceptions and sex and sexual abuse. I hope to advocate for more community support for vital organizations and issues, especially reforming sex education, through Volunteer Corps.



Tanner Crunelle

In 1856, Walt Whitman writes "I and mine do not convince by arguments, similes, rhymes, / We convince by our presence." If this is a desirable trait, perhaps we might also value a conception of individual presence as the space linking our "Self" to the outside world. This presence then also serves as a bridge between and amongst a mangled humanity—and is the aim for my project this year. The inaugural Sturcken Memorial Oratorical Competition provides students with the resources to mobilize their own identities and critical thinking skills to better how The College functions, and more specifically how the institution engages conversations of equity and access.



Sydney Davis

As a strong believer in the power of community organizing, I wish to create a project that will make it easier for neighborhood councils such as the Eastside Community Development Corporation of Charleston, SC, to communicate and work with their local government. Historically disadvantaged neighborhoods such as the Eastside of Charleston have faced many obstacles over the course of their existence because of social factors such as income and race. My activism as a Ketner cohort will be centered around expanding resources for such neighborhood organizations.



Kionne Epps

Youth aged 13-24 years old are the most susceptible age group for contracting a sexually transmitted infection or disease. Because of this fact, I am passionate about educating and empowering young people to know their sexual health status and to practice safe sex. My plan is to lead an open discussion about the do's and don'ts of having sexual intercourse and our susceptibility as young, college students. I will plan an event which consists of partnering with community organizations to host free testing, during the day, and host a fun, interactive event, during the evening, to educate students about their sexual health.



Trisani Mukhopadhyay

Academic affairs and education has always been important to me, and to be a great activist and leader it is important to be educated. therefore, this year I am planning to continue on with expanding on offering free tutoring services to students primarily from disadvantaged backgrounds here at the College of Charleston. I am planning to work with MSPS to be able to do this throughout the school year, and the goal is to be able to recruit others that are willing to offer up some of their free time to do so on this campus as well as to high school students that are in the area that need help at no cost. I believe by offering tutoring services for free, the future leaders of the world will be better equipped to take on social problems in our own community first, and then expand throughout others.



Pablo Palacios

For my project, I am conducting qualitative research on the LGBTQIA+ community to study social capital and the influence of internalized oppressions. As part of this project, I am also creating a film showcasing the trials and triumphs of members of this community that I will submit to film festivals and show on campus. This project has an activism focus to advocate for the lives of those who live with LGBTQIA+ identities.



Jasmine Shabazz

This school year I will officially petition through the Student Government Association for Melanin in Medicine to be an on-campus organization during the fall semester. This will be a service-based organization focusing on four key areas: health education, global health awareness, advocacy, and community outreach, while simultaneously giving students of color tools needed to pursue professional education related to health care. For the spring semester, I am planning to host a Black Women in Medicine screening for CofC and the local community, meet with local medical, dental, and nursing students to establish a mentoring program through CofC, and establish impactful service initiatives throughout the community such as a community baby shower for low-income and teenage mothers.





Allie Stern

I am conducting a series of events titled *Racism and Health: A Discussion on The Effects of Racism on Health Disparities and Tools to Achieve Health Equity*. The purpose of these events are twofold: 1) to educate College of Charleston students, faculty, and staff as well as the Charleston community on the various ways that racism operates on and off campus, particularly related to the effects on personal and community health, and 2) to spark a dialogue and discussion on what we as members of CofC and the Charleston community can do to challenge the local health disparities that arise from racism. The events will be mainly focused on Charleston's African American community and each event will be a different theme, for example, access to healthcare, police and race based violence, and tobacco usage. Finally, the events will include speakers and presenters in the field of Public Health and African American Studies, as well as the opportunity for break out discussion groups.