“What would our community look like if we became the healthiest community in North Carolina?... How can we think outside the box?” asked Dr. Sherry Dickstein, a retired OB-GYN and community health advocate.

“We’re tied second with New Orleans for food [in]security... what we’re finding out is the poison and the medicine all diverts back to the food,” shared Matthew King, an NC A&T student and leader of the “Innovative Food Project” sponsored by Prince of Peace Lutheran Church of Greensboro.

“We are very concerned about fraud among older adults – particularly medical fraud,” warned AARP NC Associate Director Audrey Galloway.

These are just a few of the voices and issues that rose to the fore at the 2013 Guilford County Healthcare Faith Summit, which was made possible by a partnership between UNCG School of Health and Human Sciences faculty and Mount Zion Baptist Church.

Faith summits bring secular and faith organizations together to address topics of import to the community as a whole. This year, education, faith, nonprofit, business, and health groups came together to explore issues of healthcare. The theme of the day? “We are all in this together.”

“The health of an individual, and the subsequent community, is impacted by many non-biological variables—environmental, social, mental and spiritual... by working together we can better address the broad spectrum of human need,” wrote Mount Zion Baptist Church’s Pastor Bryan J. Pierce in regards to the summit.

The public event was the brainchild of UNCG faculty Bob Wineburg and Vincent Francisco and Mount Zion’s Chief Administrative Officer, Reverend Odell Cleveland (Cleveland is also an adjunct professor of community engagement at UNCG). Jefferson Pilot Excellence Professor Wineburg explained, “The summit is an effort to bring people from the medical, faith, and educational systems closer together in a
day of learning about how all can support better health for the entire community.” The event drew 762 attendees.

Leaders from education, faith, and health sectors discussed issues related to aging, youth, women, immigrants, refugees, access to care, and more in 23 workshops. Speakers described populations in need and shared methods and stories of success in addressing those needs.

Special Assistant to the President of the United States and Executive Director of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships Melissa Rogers served as keynote speaker at the day-long event. “No matter how great government benefits and service are, they mean nothing if they don’t reach the people who need them. And that’s where faith and community groups often play an invaluable role,” said Rogers. “Whether it’s a flu shot, veterans’ benefits, or job training, government does well when it seeks community partners.”

The Nov. 14 event closed with three featured sessions. The first looked at the state of the community’s health, with an emphasis on data and fact-driven solutions. The session was facilitated by Francisco, an associate professor in public health education, and included Guilford County Department of Public Health’s Community Health Educator Laura Mrosla and Epidemiologist Dr. Mark Smith as well as Professor Wineburg.

The second session looked at model congregational programs. Representatives from faith-based programs that have seen positive healthcare outcomes shared their experiences and practical lessons. The session was facilitated by Minister Sandlin of Vandalia Presbyterian Church and included Pastor Tunde Adenola of The Redeemed Christian Church of God – Living Waters, whose church operated a free health clinic; Executive Director Don Milholin of the Out of the Garden Project; and Founder and Executive Director Keva Napper of Beautiful Butterflies.

The final session focused on the Affordable Care Act and making sense of the changing healthcare environment. Managing Partner Rob Luisana for Pilot Benefits, Inc., facilitated a panel of experts including Associate State Director for Community Outreach Audrey Galloway of AARP North Carolina, Health RN and MPH Robin Lane of the League of Women Voters, North Carolina Director Sorien Schmidt of Enroll America, and Executive Medical Director Dr. Thomas Wall of Triad Health Care Network.

“The summit is the most important conversation about the future of the community’s health this year,” asserted Dr. Francisco. “Everyone in the community has a part to play in our health, and this summit will determine the next steps for us all.”

“Collaboration with our community partners through this summit, and more importantly, the activities that will come after, is exactly the kind of role UNCG should play,” said summit attendee Dr. Terri Shelton. The Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development added, “Our strength is in supporting healthy lives and vibrant communities.
through our research, teaching, and workforce development. We are thrilled that UNCG can participate as a key partner in increasing access to quality healthcare for all individuals in our community.”

_Story by Sangeetha Shivaji, UNCG Research_

**HEALTHCARE SUMMIT REPORT OFF TO WASHINGTON**

Redacted from [http://newsandfeatures.uncg.edu/uncg-healthcare-summit-washington/](http://newsandfeatures.uncg.edu/uncg-healthcare-summit-washington/)

Organizers of the recent Healthcare Faith Community Summit in Greensboro are sending their findings to the White House in a report that was presented at a news conference on Friday.

The 22-page report details efforts in Greensboro to show how communities can organize to solve health care issues for their neediest citizens. It was requested by Melissa Rogers, executive director of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, who was the summit’s keynote speaker.

“The health system, the faith community and the educational community, acting alone, cannot begin to solve, manage or prevent the huge problems that we have,” said Dr. Bob Wineburg, UNCG social work professor. “But perhaps, just perhaps, by working together we can be more successful in taking the things that we can tackle.”

The report details the steps taken over more than two years to organize the summit, which last fall examined how health care can be expanded in Greensboro through collective efforts among churches, universities and the health system.

Organizers of the summit were Wineburg, who is also director of community-engaged scholarship for UNCG’s School of Health and Human Sciences; Rev. Odell Cleveland, chief administrative officer at Mount Zion Baptist Church; and UNCG associate professor of public health Dr. Vincent Francisco.

Cleveland noted that the summit is an example of how Greensboro can make the effort to provide care for those without health insurance. He used the Biblical story of the Good Samaritan to show how the gaps in health care need to be filled.

“What we’re going to have to say in this room is, ‘We’re going to have to be Greensboro’s, High Point’s, Guilford County’s insurance policy,’” Cleveland said.

The report was unveiled at the Evans-Blount Community Health Center, which has 14 congregations close to its location on Martin Luther King Jr. Drive in Greensboro. Also speaking were Merle Green, Guilford County health director; Greensboro City Councilwoman Sharon Hightower; and Guilford County Commissioner Katie Cashion.

Wineburg noted that the partnership between the university and faith community will serve as a model, demonstrating that two large community institutions can combine forces to work toward a common goal. It can help develop and grow ideas into practices that make existing health care better, and give a chance for good ideas and new partnerships to take root and shape.

_Story by Steve Gilliam, University Relations_

**HEALTH CARE FAITH SUMMIT**

The summit is the most recent outgrowth of a 17-year partnership between the UNCG Department of Social Work and the faith-based community, spearheaded by Dr. Bob Wineburg and Rev. Odell Cleveland. The first product of this partnership, the Welfare Reform Liaison Project, has helped put about 1,000 people to work, with participants’ cumulative earnings surpassing $9M since 1997. The Healthcare Faith Community Summit is the latest phase of the partnership. The Summit seeks to promote better community health leadership and outcomes through a faith community and university partnership. The first gathering took place on November 14, 2013, and brought together 762 people from the local community health system, faith system, nonprofit system, and educational system to address long term community health concerns.

**COLLABORATORS**

UNCG School of Health & Human Sciences, Public Health Education Department & Social Work Department • Mount Zion Baptist Church of Greensboro Inc. • Cornerstone Health Foundation • Moses Cone Health Foundation • AARP North Carolina • League of Women’s Voters of the Piedmont • Enroll America NC

**MORE INFORMATION**

Read the report: [http://ow.ly/zsFLZ](http://ow.ly/zsFLZ) • See the White House representative’s remarks on the summit: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t4PW7jPUd5o](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t4PW7jPUd5o)