



## 2020 SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE

**Building Sustainable Partnerships of Regional, Vulnerable Communities and Area Colleges/Universities to  
Address the Challenges of Environmental Injustices and Disparate Health Impacts**

**DATE:** April 14, 2020

**LOCATION:** Rollins School of Public Health & Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing, Emory University, Atlanta, GA

**CONFERENCE GOALS:** Explore how regional, vulnerable communities and area colleges/universities can collaborate to:

1. Promote methods of community/academic engagement for addressing regional Environmental Justice, health disparity and climate issues.
2. Determine ways to improve Environmental Justice curriculum, research, teaching, and service opportunities at higher education institutions.

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### MORNING SESSION

*\*Conference morning sessions will be held in the Rollins School of Public Health (RSPH) Auditorium (CNR Plaza Level)\**

**7:30-8:00 a.m.**

**REGISTRATION AND CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST** - RSPH, Claudia Nance Rollins Building Lobby

**8:00-8:30 a.m.**

**WELCOMING REMARKS BY EMORY LEADERSHIP** – RSPH Auditorium

**Dr. James Curran** – Dean of the Rollins School of Public Health

**Dr. Carol Henderson** – Vice Provost for Diversity and Inclusion, Chief Diversity Officer, Adviser to the President

**8:30-8:45 a.m.**

**CONFERENCE OVERVIEW:** Opening remarks by community and faculty representatives

**Dr. Melissa Smarr** – Conference Steering Committee Co-chair, Assistant Professor, Gangarosa Department of Environmental Health, RSPH, Emory University

**Dr. Yomi Noibi** – Executive Director, Environmental Community Action Inc.

**8:45-11:00 a.m.**

**PLENARY SESSION 1: THE NEED FOR COMMUNITY/ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIPS TO ADDRESS ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE JUSTICE ISSUES**

*This session summarizes climate and environmental health-related challenges in many frontline communities, and explores recommendations for strengthening environmental justice advocacy through community and academic research partnerships.*

**8:45-9:45 a.m.**

**Climate & Environmental Impacts on Health Disparities in Environmental Justice Communities**

Presenter – **Richard Moore**, Chair of the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council, National Co-Coordinator for Environmental Justice Health Alliance, Co-Coordinator for Los Jardines Institute

**9:45-11:00 a.m.**

**Panel Discussion:** State of Scientific Research and Community Concerns on Climate Change and Environmental Health in Frontline Communities

Panel Moderator – **Dr. Melanie Pearson**, Director, Community Engagement Core, HERCULES Exposome Research Center, RSPH, Emory University

Panel Members – **Dr. Jairo Garcia** (Chief Executive Officer at Urban Climate Nexus, Georgia Tech);  
**Dr. Eri Saikawa** (Associate Professor, College of Arts and Sciences, Emory University);  
**Dr. Na'Taki Osborne Jelks** (Professor, Spelman College and West Atlanta Watershed Alliance);  
**Dr. Leslie Rubin** (Morehouse School of Medicine, Co-Director of the Southeast PEHSU, Founder of Break the Cycle of Health Disparities, Inc.);  
**Garry Harris** (President, Center for Sustainable Communities);  
**April Ballard** (Student Advisory Council, RSPH, Emory University);  
**Jaylan Jacobs** (Student Advisory Council, College of Arts and Sciences, Emory University)

**11:00-12:00 p.m. NETWORKING LUNCH**

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### **AFTERNOON SESSION**

*\*Conference sessions after lunch will resume in the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing (SON) Auditorium (P01)\**

**12:00 -12:10 p.m.**

#### **WELCOMING REMARKS BY EMORY LEADERSHIP**

**Dr. Linda McCauley** – Dean of the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing

**12:10-2:10 p.m.**

#### **PLENARY SESSION 2: PLANNING AHEAD –DEVELOPING ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, RESEARCH, AND SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES IN HIGHER EDUCATION**

*This session explores lessons learned from efforts to improve student knowledge of environmental justice issues through community engagement via research, service learning, and curriculum development in higher education.*

**12:10-1:10 p.m.**

#### **Improving Environmental Justice Advocacy & Curriculum in Higher Education**

Presenter– **Dr. Sacoby Wilson**, Associate Professor, Maryland Institute for Applied Environmental Health, School of Public Health, University of Maryland-College Park

**1:10-2:10 p.m.**

**Panel Discussion:** Environmental Justice Education and Service Opportunities: Student and Community Engagement

Panel Moderator– **Dr. Carolyn Keogh**, Lecturer, Department of Environmental Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences, Emory University

Panel Members – **Michael Burns** (Former Program Director, Colleges/Underserved Communities Partnership, U.S. EPA, Region 4);

**James Robinson** (Associate Professor of Exercise Science, University of West Alabama);

**Dr. Vialla Hartfield-Mendez** (Director of Engaged Learning, Center for Faculty Development and Excellence, Emory University);

**Quentin Pair** (Professor Howard University Law, Former US DOJ Senior Trial Attorney);

**Mindy Goldstein** (Clinical Professor, Emory Law School and Director of the Turner Environmental Law Clinic);

**Thora Middleton** (Student Advisory Council, RSPH, Emory University);

**Ana Rodriguez** (Student Advisory Council, RSPH, Emory University);

**Vivek Ravichandran** (Student Advisory Council Emory University)

**2:10-2:20 p.m. BREAK**

**2:20-3:20 p.m.**

**PLENARY SESSION 3: COOPERATION, COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIP – TRANSLATING VISION INTO ACTION FOR ADVANCING ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE CHAMPIONS AS CHANGE AGENTS IN THEIR COMMUNITIES THROUGH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

*This session is designed to focus on leadership development within communities toward strengthening environmental justice advocacy and action.*

**2:20-3:20 p.m.**

**Panel Discussion:** Creating Synergy Between Environmental Champions and Academia to Develop Effective, Sustainable Leaders

Panel Moderator- **Dr. Rob Williams**, Organizational psychologist and Senior Fellow, Center for Ethics and Leadership, Robinson College of Business, Georgia State University

Panel Members- **Folashade Alao** (Atlanta Regional Commission, Director Regional Leadership Institute);  
**Juliet Hall** (Juliet Hall INC., Owner);  
**V. Ann Heard** (Executive in Residence, Atlanta Metropolitan State College);  
**Lindsay Harper** (Executive Director, Georgia WAND);  
**Harold Mitchel** (Executive Director, ReGenesis in South Carolina);  
**Columbus Ward, Jr.** (President, Board of Directors, Peoplestown Revitalization Corporation In South Atlanta)  
**Sarahna Moyd** (Student Advisory Council);  
**Brandon Sinnott** (Student Advisory Council)

**3:20-4:20 p.m.**

**PLENARY SESSION 4: THE FUTURE OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY/ACADEMIC COLLABORATION**

Presenter – **Vernice Miller Travis**, Executive Vice President, Metropolitan Group

**4:20-4:45 p.m.**

**CLOSING PLENARY: SUMMARY OF CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS TO SUPPORT ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVOCACY AND EDUCATION**

Presenters - Student Advisory Council Members

**4:45-5:00 p.m.**

**CLOSING REMARKS**

**Quentin Pair, J.D.** – Conference Steering Committee Co-chair, Professor, Howard University Law  
**Dr. Na'Taki Osborne Jelks** – Professor, Environmental and Health Sciences, Spelman College

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**5:00-7:00 p.m.**

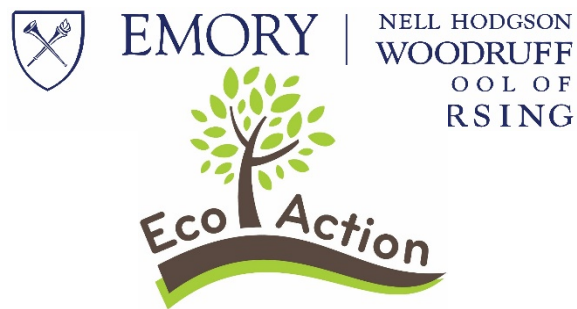
**NETWORKING RECEPTION: TOUR/FIVE YEAR CELEBRATION OF EMORY'S WATERHUB**

Sponsored by the Office of Sustainability Initiatives, Emory University

- Environmental Justice communities are often disproportionately impacted by harms related to siting of wastewater treatment plants with odor and related decreased property values, sewage overflows from overburdened and degraded municipal systems, contaminated drinking water, and flooding.
- The only one of its kind in the United States, the Water Hub models a more responsible form of waste management in which sewage is treated on-site rather than being transferred to poor and minority neighborhoods resulting in reduced social and environmental impacts.

- Emory's WaterHub is an innovative decentralized sewage treatment process using biomimetic technology to treat wastewater at its source and recycle for toilet flushing and heating and cooling in the University's buildings.

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**Office of the Provost**

