

KYAIEN O. CONNER, Ph.D, LSW, MPH

Business Address: 2001 Cathedral of Learning **Email:** PittSSWDean@pitt.edu

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

UNDERGRADUATE:

1998-2002	University of Pittsburgh Pittsburgh, PA	B.S. (2002) magna cum laude B.A. (2002) magna cum laude	Psychology Africana Studies
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GRADUATE:

2002-2008	University of Pittsburgh Pittsburgh, PA	M.S.W. (2004) M.P.H. (2006) Ph.D. (2008) with distinction	Social Work Health Sciences Social Work
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POSTGRADUATE:

2008- 2010 Postdoctoral Training Fellow, Clinical Training in Geriatric Psychiatry Program T32 (MH19986), Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic (WPIC), Program Director: Dr. Charles F. Reynolds III; Research Mentor: Dr. Charlotte Brown.

LEADERHIP TRAINING PROGRAMS:

2026-2024-25	TALI Executive Leadership Training Institute (received \$10,000 scholarship)
03/2019	ACC Academic Leadership Institute
09/2016	Advanced Research Institute in Geriatric Psychiatry, Cornell Medical Center,
03/2016	NIH Grant Development Training (GUMSHOE) Detroit, MI
10/2014	Diversity Education Training, Tampa, FL
9/2012	Mental Health First Aid Certification/Instructor Certification, DC
7/2011	Minority Faculty Career Development Seminar, Chicago, IL
9/2009	Early Career Women Faculty Professional Development, Washington, DC
7/2009	American Society on Aging New Ventures in Leadership Training Program,
3/2009	Summer Research Institute for Geriatric Psychiatry, University of Michigan, MI
3/2009	Career Development Institute for Psychiatry, Stanford University, CA
6/2007	American Society on Aging New Ventures in Leadership Training, Las Vegas,
	MCUAAAR Training in Older African American Mental Health

APPOINTMENTS AND POSITIONS

ACADEMIC:

7/26-Current Dean and Donald M. Henderson Endowed Chair, School of Social Work, Pitt

7/23-Current Director, Center on Race and Social Problems, School of Social Work, Pitt

7/23-7/26 Associate Dean for Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI), SSW, Pitt

1/21-6/23 Special Assistant to the Dean of CBCS for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, USF

6/21-6/23 Chair, Faculty Senate Council on Racial Justice, University of South Florida

8/20-6/23 Tenured Associate Professor of Mental Health Law and Policy, College of Behavioral and Community Sciences, University of South Florida

8/15-6/23 Faculty Affiliate, Lois De La Parte Florida Mental Health Institute

8/13-8/20 Assistant Professor of Mental Health Law and Policy, College of Behavioral and Community Sciences, University of South Florida

6/10-8/13 Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, School of Medicine, University of Pittsburgh

9/06-8/13 Adjunct Faculty, School of Social Work MSW Program, University of Pittsburgh

NON-ACADEMIC (Selected):

09/22-1/26 Clinical. Director and Provider Training and Outreach Coordinator, Boris L. Henson Foundation, Beverly Hills, CA

9/05- 8/13 Individual EAP Therapist, PERSOMA Psychiatric Services, Pittsburgh, PA

4/04-9/04 Psychiatric Specialty Counselor and Clinical Supervisor, Kidstep Residential Treatment Program, Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic, Pittsburgh, PA

8/03-4/04 Individual Child and Family Therapist, A Second Chance Incorporated, PA

CERTIFICATION and LICENSURE

SPECIALITY CERTIFICATION:	Certificate of Child Welfare	2004
PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE:	Licensed Social Worker State of Pennsylvania SW125195	2004

GRANTS AND CONTRACT AWARDS

(Total funding as PI = \$3,834,214.00)

Total Funding = \$48,789,474.00)

NIA 2P30AG066468-06

06/15/2025 -02/28/2030

National Institute on Aging

Alzheimer's Disease Research Center

The PITT-ADRC Administrative Core has functioned for nearly 40 years to operate a cohesive, coordinated, and effective Alzheimer's Disease Research Center. The Core functions to provide central coordination, oversight and leadership to the various core components, Research Education Component, and Developmental Projects. Dr. Conner was added as a CO-I this year to lead JEDI related components and is a CO-I in the Research Education Component and the Outreach Core.

Role: Co-I

Award Amount: \$14, 625,000

NINDS 1U01NS141777-01

09/2024-09/2026

National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke

Brain CHEC-AC (Brain and Cognitive Health Equity Campaign for Allegheny County)

This project pulls together leaders from Nursing, Medicine, Public Health and social work to create counter-narratives about dementia that encourage early evaluation and intervention. The goal will be to use narrative storytelling to reduce stigma and encourage early evaluation and intervention in communities of color and also explores the use of blood-based biomarker testing for Alzheimer's diagnosis

Role: Co-I/Social Work Lead

Award Amount: \$3, 826,922

NIGMS R01GM151566-01A1

07/2024-06/2029

National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS)

Promoting Inclusive Excellence

To build the knowledge base of evidence-based interventions that dismantle systemic racism, we are testing our intervention using a cluster randomized trial across 26 institutions. We will follow participants for two years to study the impact of the intervention. We will also study the factors that impacted the participants using qualitative research with participant interviews. Finally, we will study the neural response to racism before and after the intervention.

Role: Co-I

Award Amount: \$5,000,000

2R25MH119050-06/NIMH

8/1/2025-7/31/2029

Advanced Research Institute (ARI) in Mental Health and Aging

ARI provides early-career faculty with a mentored, educational program to foster their transition to Independent Investigators measured by obtaining NIH R01-level (or equivalent) funding and to Scientific Leaders as evidenced by research mentoring, retention as active researcher, publications, academic promotion, participation in team science, and scientific service. Dr. Conner serves as lead for DEI on this grant.

Role: Co-I/DEI lead faculty

Award Amount: \$ 1,074,427

Fulbright/Hayes Award

1/1/2025-12/31/2026

Enhancing West African Cultural Literacy and Decolonizing Modes of Thinking

This project took 16 University of Pittsburgh Faculty members to Senegal and Gambia, West Africa. During our 4 weeks in these countries, these faculty engaged in the development of individual curricular and research oriented projects in a range of academic disciplines to set the foundation for transformational interdisciplinary and intercultural research.

Role: MPI

Award Among: \$118,000

Steve Manners Faculty Research Award

05/25-12/2026

University Center for Social and Urban Research

The Black Pittsburgh Satisfaction and Retention Survey

This project will allow CRSP to partner with the Corporate Equity and Inclusion RoundTable (CEIR) to evaluate the barriers and facilitators of long-term residence in Pittsburgh for Black individuals and families. This information will allow us to develop action steps that are directly data driven, to aid in the diversification of our communities and industries in the Greater Pittsburgh Region.

Role: PI

Award: \$20,000

University of Pittsburgh Momentum Award

09/24/-06/26

Creating Synergies and Collaborations to Advance Race-Based Research at the University of Pittsburgh

This project leverages Directors/Associate Directors of all the race-based centers across Pitt for strategic planning and visioning, research team development, mentorship and support from program officers and the development of a race-related research database (create a localized repository of race-related research and scholarship that will further amplify the work of local race-based research and create meaningful connections to external race-based researchers).

Role: PI

Award: \$57,214

R01/CDC

9/1/2022-8/30/2026

Developing & Evaluating an Extreme Risk Protection Order Implementation Protocol w/ Impacted Communities

This research study involves developing and pilot testing a novel extreme risk protection order (ERPO) implementation strategy for impacted communities measuring the acceptability, feasibility, and sustainability of the strategy among stakeholders.

Role: Co-I

Award Amount: \$1,778, 450

University of South Florida College of Public Health

9/1/2022-8/30/2025

Implementation Science as a Mechanism for Reducing Disparities in Food Insecurity among Black and Latinx College Students

This research will utilize an implementation science approach toward addressing food security among under-represented college students at USF and will test the impact of key interventions with the goal of reducing disparities and enhancing equity in food insecurity.

Role: MPI

Award Amount: \$50,000

Arts Schools Network Assistance for Arts Education Grants

1/1/2022-12/31/2027

Race, Equity, Arts, and Cultural History (REACH)

This project builds a National Arts Learning Laboratory to both strengthen the fiber of arts learning nationally and harness the learning and effectiveness of arts integration as a catalyst for increasing student engagement and reducing disparities in education for students of color.

Role: Co-I

Award Amount: \$8,400,000

Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute

2/1/2021-1/31/2026

Examination of the Evidence-Based Care Transitions Intervention Enhanced with Peer Support to Reduce Racial Disparities in Hospital Readmissions

The research will evaluate the effectiveness of a novel transitional care strategy enhanced with peer educators designed to avoid unplanned hospital readmissions and improve patient health outcomes in a racially/ethnically diverse sample of older adults who have been admitted to the hospital because of a chronic health condition and co-occurring psychiatric illness.

Role: PI

Award Amount: \$2, 503, 000

NEA (National Endowment for the Arts)

4/1/2022-3/31/2024

Interdisciplinary Collaboration for the Development of a Research Lab in the Arts

This grant involves multiple pilot projects which will enhance the relationship between the arts and health/mental health outcomes. This funding will lay the foundation for the development of a research lab in the arts and interdisciplinary connections to the social nurses.

Role: Co-I

Award Amount: \$100,000

RO1/NIMH

1/1/2021-12/31/2026

"Do More, Feel Better" an Examination of a Volunteer Led Behavioral Activation Intervention for Older Adults Living with Depression.

This non-inferiority trial is designed to evaluate the ability of volunteer members of senior center communities to be trained to effectively deliver a brief behavioral activation intervention to improve psychosocial outcomes and depression in a sample of older adults with depression as compared to masters trained clinicians.

Role: Co-I

Award Amount: \$2, 500, 000

RO1 Supplement/NIMH

1

“Do More, Feel Better” an Examination of a Volunteer Led Behavioral Activation Intervention for Older Latino/Hispanic Adults Living with Depression.

This non-inferiority trial is designed to evaluate the ability of volunteer members of senior center communities who identify as Latino/Hispanic to be trained to effectively deliver a brief behavioral activation intervention in Spanish to improve psychosocial outcomes and depression in a sample of older adults with depression as compared to masters trained clinicians.

Role: Co-I

Award Amount: \$500, 000

Ed and Ethel Moore Alzheimer’s Disease Research Program

3/1/2019-2/28/21

The Impact of an African Drumming for Dementia Intervention on Psychosocial Outcomes in African Americans with Alzheimer’s Disease and their Caregivers.

Open trial methodology to examine the impact of a culturally sensitive music therapy intervention among older African Americans with early stage Alzheimer’s Disease and their caregivers.

Role: PI

Award Amount: \$95,000

USF Office of Research and Innovation

9/1/2020-8/31/2021

Grants for Understanding Blackness and Anti-Black Racism

Storytelling Saves Lives: Challenging the Stigma of Mental Illness Through Stories from the Black Community.

To address mental illness stigma in the Black community, we propose to deliver and evaluate a special series titled “This is My Brave (TIMB): Stories from the Black Community” using a sequential, mixed-methods research design.

Role: PI

Award Amount: \$30,000

USF Office of Research and Innovation

9/1/2020-8/31/2021

Grants for Understanding Blackness and Anti-Black Racism

Dismantling Drivers of Racial Disparities (DDoRD)

The purpose of this pilot study is to develop and evaluate the effectiveness of a new racially-inclusive curriculum for middle school students that dismantles racially-historicized pedagogy. The USF research team plans to assemble and mobilize a collaborative partnership that promotes educational equality, racially-authentic pedagogy, and community impact.

Role: Co-PI

Award Amount: \$30,000

USF Office of Research and Innovation

9/1/2020-8/31/2021

Grants for Understanding Blackness and Anti-Black Racism

The Impact of Mentoring on Persistence, Resilience, and Success Outcomes of Black Women Academics

This research proposal supports an interdisciplinary mixed-method study to explore the success experiences Black women academics who have had successful experiences with programmatic mentoring. Our research seeks to better understand mechanisms by which formal mentoring programs impact success outcomes in this Black community.

Role: Co-PI

Award Amount: \$30,000

USF Office of Research and Innovation

9/1/2020-8/31/2021

Grants for Understanding Blackness and Anti-Black Racism

Challenges to Engagement with Parent Education and Early Childhood Programming in a Historically Black Neighborhood

Using a mixed-method approach our study will examine how Black children and families experience and participate in virtual parent education and developmental playgroups with a focus on the extent to which the service structure minimizes or accentuates anti-Black racism

Role: Co-I

Award Amount: \$30,000

Retirement Research Foundation

7/1/2019-6/20/21

Adverse outcomes for people on waiting lists for aging services

Determine risk factors for death, long-term care placement, and functional decline among older adults screened for aging services, through analyses of administrative data and qualitative interviews in a five-county Area Agency on Aging in west central Florida.

Role: Co-I

Award Amount: \$158,030

Pandemic Response Research Network

08/26/2020-08/25/2021

A Decentralized Digital ID for Pandemics

The project supports the development of a secure decentralized Digital Identity (DID) system to provide essential services during pandemics such as access to reliable information, optimal patient care, first necessity goods, and privacy-preserving proofs of immunity.

Role: Co-I

Award Amount: \$25,000

NSF Innovation Corps (I-Corps)

9/1/2019-11/30/2019

Evaluation of the Instrumix Wellness Program for Older adults with Dementia.

Role: PI

Award Amount: \$3,000

NSF Innovation Corps (I-Corps)

9/1/2019-11/30/2019

Encouraging Mental Health Conversations with Primary Care Physicians Using Waiting Room Televisions

Role: Co-I

Award Amount: \$3,000

College of Public Health Internal Award

1/16/19-1/16/20

Exploring Factors that Influence Cost of Care Conversions Among the Elderly

This study will examine incidence, preference and outcomes of cost of care conversions in different ethnic groups with the intent to better understand and address the burden of rising healthcare costs in the US.

Role: Co-I

Award Amount: \$20,000

Humana Foundation

1/1/2018-6/1/2019

Community-Based Chronic Disease Self-Management Program

This community-based wholistic health and wellness program will examine the impact of this 6 week health and wellness education program on the physical, psychological and nutritional health of community-dwelling older adult African Americans at risk for chronic medical disease.

Role: Program Evaluator

Award Amount: \$150,000

CBCS Internal Award

1/1/2016-12/31/2017

Enhancing the Care Transitions Intervention to Facilitate Wellness and Reduce Hospital Re-Admissions among Older Adults with a Co-occurring Mental Health Diagnosis.

This pilot project utilized randomized controlled trial methodology to examine the benefit of adding Peer Education supports to the Community Care Transitions Program (CTI), an evidence-based intervention designed to transition older adults from the hospital to home.

Role: PI

Amount Awarded: \$20,000

K23 MH090151

05/10/2010-03/31/2015

NIMH

Enhancing Mental Health treatment Engagement and Retention Among Older Adults with Depression.

This research examined the impact of a motivation interviewing engagement strategy led by depression peer educators to help engage and retain depressed older adults in mental health treatment.

Role: PI

Amount Awarded: \$593,000

LRP

01/1/2010-12/31/2015

NIMHD

Examination of the Mental Health Service Utilization Disparities Facing Older Adults of Color Living with Mood Disorders.

This research utilized mixed methodology to identify potentially modifiable barriers and challenges to mental health service utilization facing older African Americans with depression.

Role: PI

Amount Awarded: \$60,000

P30MH071944

NIA

9/1/2005 – 2/28/2010

“Advanced Center for Interventions & Services Research Late-Life Mood Disorders”

The aim of the ACISR/LLMD Principal Research Core is to facilitate the testing of interventions (preventive, rehabilitative, and treatment) in elderly persons at high risk for depression and in those already living with mood disorders.

Role: Research Network Development Core Investigator

Amount Awarded: \$6, 717, 431

Staunton Farm Foundation

11/1/2007-11/1/2009

Peer Educators: Bridges to Improved Depression Care in Black Primary Care Patients

This research will examine the impact of Peer Education on improving attitudes about mental health treatment among older adult African American primary care patients.

Role: Co-I

Amount Awarded: \$150,000

The John A. Hartford Foundation

10/1/2006-9/30/2008

Treatment Seeking Among Older Adults with Depression: The Impact of Stigma and Race

This mixed-methods research examined the impact of stigma and race on the utilization of mental health services among depressed African American and white older adults.

Role: PI

Amount Awarded: \$75,000

University of Pittsburgh

7/1/2005 – 6/30/2006

Depression Stigma, Race, and Treatment Seeking Behavior and Attitudes

This research utilized a representative sample of adults with depression to examine the nature of the relations among public stigma of depression, internalized stigma of depression, treatment seeking behaviors, and race.

Role: Co-I

Amount Awarded: \$50,000

Funding Currently Under Review

National Institute of Minority Health Disparities (R21)

A cluster Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT) of Renew Your Mind, a culturally tailored, spiritually integrated, and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT)-based mental health training for African American faith leaders

Role: MPI

Amount Requested: \$500,000

National Institute of Minority Health Disparities (R01)

Reducing Maternal and Child Health Disparities using a Novel Doula Intervention

This research will utilize a randomized controlled trial to examine the impact of a novel group led doula intervention to reduce disparities in maternal and child health.

Role: Co-I

Amount Requested: \$2, 500,000

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Journal Articles (* Indicates mentee)

Conner, K., Fischer, T., Nemhard, K.*, Rosado, S.*, Abusuampek, D*, & Cobb-Roberts, D. (In Press). The Impacting of mentoring on the success of Black women in the academy. *Harvard Education Review*.

Atkinson, C., Crawford, N., Bugos, J., & **Conner, K** (In press). The Impact of an African Drumming for Dementia Intervention on Psychosocial Outcomes in Racially/Ethnically Diverse Older Adults with Alzheimer's Disease and their Caregivers. *Perspectives on Arts in Health*.

DeBate, R., Jarvis, J. E., Jones, R., Himmelgreen, D., **Conner, K.**, Dumford, A. D., & Stern, M. (2025). Perceived self-and social stigma among campus-based food pantry users. *Journal of American College Health*, 73(9), 3306-3311. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07448481.2024.2412067>

Jarvis, J. E., Perez, J., Himmelgreen, D., Dumford, A. D., **Conner, K.**, Stern, M., & DeBate, R. (2025). Test Validity of a Single-Item Food Insecurity Screening Assessment Among College Students. *American Journal of Health Promotion*, 39(3), 514-519.

DeBate, R., Jarvis, J. E., Perez, J., Jones, R., Himmelgreen, D., **Conner, K.**, & Stern, M. (2025). Socio-Ecological Determinants of Food Pantry Use Among Food Insecure Racial and Ethnic Diverse College Students. *American Journal of Lifestyle Medicine*, 15598276251351585.

Vest, J. R., Wu, W., & **Conner, K.** (2025). Clusters of health-related social needs among adult primary care patients. *The Journal of the American Board of Family Medicine*, 38(1), 119-124.

Conner, K. O., Abusuampek, D. K., Kosyluk, K., Tran, J. T., Davis-Cotton, D., Hill, A. M., & Brown, A. P. (2024). Mitigating the Stigma of Mental Illness: The Impact of Story-Telling in the Black Community. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 21(11), 1473.

Buro, A., Brown, N., Jones, R., Dumford, A., **Conner, K.**, Himmelgreen, D., ... & DeBate, R. (2024). Socio-Ecological Determinants of Food Insecurity Among Racial and Ethnically Diverse College Students. *Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior*, 56(8), S47.

Conner, K., Kosyluk, K., Tran, J. T., Anderson, E., Davis-Cotton, D., & Hill, A. M. (2023). The impact of a culturally meaningful storytelling intervention on stigma and attitudes about mental health treatment. *The Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease*, 211(6), 419-426.

Brown, N. I., Buro, A. W., Jones, R., Himmelgreen, D., Dumford, A. D., **Conner, K.**, & DeBate, R. (2023). Multi-level determinants of food insecurity among racially and ethnically diverse college students. *Nutrients*, 15(18), 4065.

Kosyluk, K., **Conner, K.**, & Ming, J. (2023). Pilot Study of the National Alliance on Mental Illness Peer-to-Peer Program with a Predominantly Latinx Sample. *American Journal of Psychiatric Rehabilitation*.

Kosyluk, K., Kenneally, R. G., Tran, J. T., Cheong, Y. F., Bolton, C., & **Conner, K.** (2022). Overcoming stigma as a barrier to children's mental health care: The role of empowerment and mental health literacy. *Stigma and Health*, 7(4), 432–442. <https://doi.org/10.1037/sah0000402>

Conner, K., Wiltshire, J., Orban, B., Garcia, E., Anderson, E.*, Carrion, I. (2022). Racial and Ethnic Differences in Cost-of-care Conversations Among Older Adults. *Journal of Communication in Healthcare*, 15:3, 178-188, DOI: [10.1080/17538068.2022.2072165](https://doi.org/10.1080/17538068.2022.2072165)

*Kennelly, R., *Tran, J, Bolton, C., **Conner, K.**, Cheoung, Y.F., & Kosyluk, K. (2022). Overcoming Stigma as a Barrier to Children's Mental Healthcare: The Role of Empowerment and Mental Health Literacy. *Stigma and Health*, 7(4), 432–442. <https://doi.org/10.1037/sah0000402>

Jimenez, D.E., Park, M., Rosen, D., Joo, J.H., Martinez Garza, D., Weinstein, E.R., **Conner, K.**, Silva, C., & Okereke, O. (2022). Centering Culture in Mental Health: Differences in Diagnosis, Treatment, and Access to Care Among Older People of Color. *American Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry*. Volume 30, issue 11, 1234-1251.

Wiltshire, J., Garcia Colato, E., **Conner, K.**, Anderson, E., & Orban, B. (2022). Health care Affordability and Associated Concerns Among Adults Aged 65 and above in Florida. *Journal of Applied Gerontology*, 41(4), 1120-1130. DOI: [10.1177/07334648211039314](https://doi.org/10.1177/07334648211039314)

Wiltshire, J., Garcia Colato, E., **Conner, K.**, Anderson, E., & Orban, B. (2022). Healthcare Affordability and Associated Concerns among Adults Aged 65 and over in Florida. *Innovation in Aging*, Volume 4, Issue Supplement_1, 2020, Page 97, <https://doi.org/10.1093/geroni/igaa057.321>

Gum, A., Green, O., Conner, **K.**, & Schonfeld, L (2022). A Pilot Study of Brief, Stepped Behavioral Activation for Primary Care Patients with Depressive Symptoms. *J Clin Psychol Med Settings*, 27:1–11. doi: [10.1007/s10880-022-09864-x](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10880-022-09864-x).

Schonfeld, L., Bell, J., Goldsworthy, M., Kip, K., Gum, A. M., **Conner, K.**, Green, O., Wagoner, F., Parkinson, K., Melling, K. A., & Markwood, S. (2022). Screening and priority-setting to determine home- and community-based aging services for older Floridians. *Journal of Applied Gerontology*. Advanced online publication, <https://doi.org/10.1177/07334648211012508>

Conner, K., Gum, A., Schonfeld, L., Kosyluk, K., *Baker-Douglin, J., Meng, H., Beckstead, J., Brown, C., & Reynolds, C. (2021) Enhancing care transitions intervention with peer support to improve outcomes among older adults with co-occurring clinical depression: a pilot study, *Home Health Care Services Quarterly*, 40:4, 324-339, DOI: [10.1080/01621424.2021.1967249](https://doi.org/10.1080/01621424.2021.1967249)

Hall, C., **Conner, K.**, & Jones, K. (2021). The Strong Black Woman versus Mental Health Utilization: A Qualitative Study, *Health & Social Work*, 46 (1): 33–41
<https://doi.org/10.1093/hsw/hlaa036>

Meng, H., Marino, V. R., **Conner, K.**, Sharma, D., Davis, W. S., & Glueckauf, R. L. (2021). Effects of in-person and telephone-based cognitive behavioral therapies on health services use and expenditures among African-American dementia caregivers with depressive symptoms. *Ethnicity & health*, 1-14. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13557858.2019.1590536>

Zhang, B., **Conner, K.**, Meng, H., Tu, N., Liu, D., & Chen, Y. (2021). Social support and quality of life among rural family caregivers of persons with severe mental illness in Sichuan Province, China: mediating roles of care burden and loneliness. *Quality of Life Research*, 30(7), 1881-1890. doi.org/10.1007/s11136-021-02793-6

Kosyluk, K.A., **Conner, K.**, Al-Khouja, M., Bink, A., Buchholz, B., Ellefson, S., ... Corrigan, P.W. (2021). Factors predicting help seeking for mental illness among college students. *Journal of Mental Health* 19, 1-8. doi: 10.1080/09638237.2020.1739245.

Rouse, H., Hueluer, G., Torres, M., Du, Y., **Conner, K.**, & Meng, H. (2021). Music Engagement and Episodic Memory among Middle-Aged and Older Adults: A National Longitudinal Analysis. *Innovation in Aging*, 5(Suppl 1), 702.
https://academic.oup.com/innovateage/article/5/Supplement_1/702/6467077

Conner, K., *Patterson-Price, J., Faulkner, N., & Young, K (2021). “African Dance is My Therapy”: Perspectives on the Unique Health Benefits of West African Dance. *Journal of Dance Education*. doi: [10.1080/15290824.2019.1678751](https://doi.org/10.1080/15290824.2019.1678751)

Cadet, T., Burke, S. L., Mitchell, J., **Conner, K.**, & Nedjat-Haiem, F. (2021). Does Perceived Loneliness Matter for Diverse Older Men and Their Prostate-Specific Antigen Testing Behaviors?. *Social Work Research*, 45(2), 117-128. <https://doi.org/10.1093/swr/svab002>

Kosyluk, K.A., Marshall, J., Rivera Macias, D., Macias, S., **Conner, K.**, Beekman, B.M., Her, J. (2021). Challenging the Stigma of Mental Illness through Creative Storytelling: A Randomized Controlled Trial of This Is My Brave. *Community Mental Health Journal*.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10597-020-00625-4>

Liu, Y., Meng, H., **Conner, K.**, Qiao, M., & Liu, D. (2021). The Influence of Health Literacy and Social Support on Loneliness among Patients with Severe Mental Illness in Rural Southwest China. *Frontiers in psychology*, 3894. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2021.564666>

Kosyluk, K., **Conner, K.**, Beekman, B. M., & Ji, M. (2020). Pilot Study of the National Alliance on Mental Illness Peer-to-Peer Program with a Predominantly Latinx Sample. *American Journal of Psychiatric Rehabilitation*, 23(3), 227-248.

Conner, K., Meng, H., *Marino, V., & Burton T. (2020). Individual and Organizational Factors Associated with Hospital Readmission Rates: Evidence from a US National Sample. *Journal of Applied Gerontology*. 39(10):1153-1158. doi: 10.1177/0733464819870983.

Gum, A., Green, O., **Conner, K.,** Rigg, K., & Schonfeld, L. (2020). Longitudinal analysis of mortality for older adults receiving or waiting for aging network services. *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*, 68(3):519-525. doi: 10.1111/jgs.16232. Epub 2019 Oct 27. PMID: 31657010.

Gum, A., Schonfeld, L., Kip, K., **Conner, K.,** et al. (2020). Mortality and Health Outcomes for Older Adults Screened by an Area Agency on Aging Over a 4.5-Year Period. *Innovation in Aging*, 4(Suppl 1):710-711. PMCID: PMC7743684

Sun, X., Meng, H., Ye, Z., **Conner, K.,** Duan, Z., & Liu, D. (2019). Factors associated with the choice of primary care facilities for initial treatment among rural and urban residents in Southwestern China. *PloS one*, 14(2), e0211984.

*Johnson, A., & **Conner, K.** (2019). It gets better with time: the perception of stigma among older adults with chronic physical illness and in recovery from mental health condition. *American Journal of Undergraduate Research*. 15 (4), 79-90.

Cadet, T., Burke, S., Mitchell, J., **Conner, K.,** Burgess, A., Bullock, K., & Davis, C. (2019). Does perceived loneliness matter for diverse older men and their prostate specific antigen testing behaviors? *Innovation in Aging*, 3(Suppl 1), S641. <https://doi.org/10.1093/geroni/igz038.2384>

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Articles Currently Under Review

Lane, T. B., Sears, R., **Conner, K.,** & Coles, J. A. (under review). From Developmental Mathematics to Engineers: A Qualitative Study of Successful Black Male Engineering Students placing into Developmental Mathematics. *Journal of African American Males in Education*

Lane, T. B., Rincón, B., **Conner, K.** (under review). The racialized realities of Black students in STEM classrooms environments. *Journal of Research in Science Teaching*.

Cadet, T., Burke, S., Mitchell, J., **Conner, K.,** Burgess, A., Bullock, K., & Davis, C. (Under review). Differences among social engagement activities and its effect on prostate cancer screening participation among older men. *International Journal of the Sociology of Leisure*.

Published Progress Reports

Brown C, Dobransky-Fasiska, D, Reynolds III CF, Pyle P, Cruz M, Parker LS, Pincus HA, McMurray ML, **Conner K,** et al., Research Network Development Core-Community Partnership 5 Year Progress Report April 1, 2005 – May 31, 2010. Advanced Center for Interventions and Services Research for Late Life Mood Disorders, University of Pittsburgh.

KEYNOTE/INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Conner, K. (2/23/26). KEYNOTE, Black History Month School of Engineering Event, Pittsburgh, PA. *The Science of Sankofa: Celebrating Black History Through Cultural Knowledge and Innovative Research?*

Conner, K. (2/3/26) INVITED TALK at the UPMC Hillman Cancer Center Seminar Series, Pittsburgh, PA. *Intersecting Legacies: Racisms Enduring Impact on Community Health and Mental Health Disparities.*

Conner, K. (2/3/26) INVITED TALK at the Advocacy in Action Speaker Series for the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Pittsburgh, PA. *Advocacy, Health Policy its Impact on Mental Health Care Access: Advocacy in Action!*

Conner, K. (1/29/26) KEYNOTE at the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission Annual Diversity Speaker Series Event, Virtual, *Intersecting Legacies: Racisms Enduring Impact on Community Health and Mental Health Disparities.*

Conner, K. (1/14/26). KEYNOTE at the Corporate Equity and Inclusion Roundtable Conference, Pittsburgh, PA. *Why are Black People Leaving the Region, and What Might Impact their Drive to Stay?*

Conner, K., Abramovitz, M., & Harty, J (1/16/25). INVITED SYMPOSIUM at the Society for Social Work Research (SSWR) Annual Conference in Seattle, WA. *Resisting Regression II: Strengthening Social Work Science and Collaboration Amid Anti-DEI and Anti-Democratic Initiatives.*

Conner, K. (10/9/25). KEYNOTE at the Open Forum at the National Coordinating Center for Public Health Training and the National Network of Public Health Institutes Annual Conference, in Pittsburgh, PH. *The Spark Within: Igniting Innovation in the Face of Challenge.*

Conner, K. (4/3/2025) GRANDROUNDS at Indiana University School of Medicine. *Global Mental Health and the Impact on People of Color.*

Conner, K. (3/27/26) INVITED TALK at the Advanced Research in Geriatric Psychiatry Annual Convening in Winston-Salem, NC. *Sustaining a Research Career in Difficult Social and Political Environments.*

Conner, K. (10/11/24) KEYNOTE at the Boris L Henson Foundation Can We Talk Annual Conference in Washington, DC. *Moving from Cultural Competency to Cultural Humility as a strategy for achieving JEDI*

Conner, K. (7/10/24) INVITED SYMPOSIUM at the Orange Arrow Symposium in Sports Conference in Pittsburgh, PA. *Diversity and Wellness in Sports: Advancing Equity and Mental Health*

Conner, K. (5/9/24) INVITED TALK for the Student of the National Medical Association (SNMA) annual speaker series in Pittsburgh, PA. *Health Policy Formation and its Impact on Mental Health Care Access*

Conner, K. (11/16/23) INVITED TALK at the Waging Liberation: the Dynamics of Race and Labor conference at UMass Dartmouth. *The Intersections of Poverty, Race and Mental Health.*

Conner, K. (11/16/23) KEYNOTE at the Alzheimer's Disease Research Center Oscars Scholars Annual Event, Pittsburgh, PA. *Cultivating a Culture of Excellence: Academic Leadership Practices that Enhance Performance and Well-being*

Mental Health, Health and Economic Disparities

Conner K. (10/15/23) KEYNOTE at the Race & Conference at the University of Pittsburgh. *The impact of Mental Health Service Disparities on Racial/Ethnic Minority Communities: Exploring the Intersections of Race, Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health*

Conner, K. (4/1/2011) KEYNOTE at the First National POC LGBT Aging Convention, in Washington, DC. *Health and Mental Health Disparities among LGBTQ Persons of Color.*

Refereed Presentations

Conner, K., Gum, A., Meng, D., Yampolskya, L., *Albizou-Jacob, A., *Abusuampek, A., & *Goldsworthy, M (4/17/26). *Examination of The Evidence-Based Care Transitions Intervention Enhanced with Peer Support to Reduce Racial Disparities in Hospital Readmissions and Negative Outcomes Post Hospitalization.* Oral Presentation at the American Academy of Geriatric Psychiatry (AAGP) Conference in Arlington, VA.

Conner, K., Gum, A., & *Abusuampek, A. (4/16/26). *Clinical Advances in Health Equity: Preliminary Findings from a Comparative Effectiveness Trial.* Oral Presentation at the 2026 Health Equity Summit in Blue Bell, Pennsylvania

Conner, K., Crawford, N., & *Atkinson, C. (1/16/26). *Healing Rhythms: The Power of West African Drumming in Cognitive and Emotional Wellness.* Oral Presentation at the Society for Social Work Research Annual Conference (SSWR) in Washington, DC.

Conner, K., Gum, A., Meng, D., Yampolskya, L., *Albizou-Jacob, A., *Abusuampek, A., & *Goldsworthy, M (11/16/24). *Preliminary Impacts of the Care Transitions Intervention Enhanced with Peer Support to Reduce Racial Disparities in Hospital Readmissions.* Oral Presentation at the Gerontological Society of America (GSA) Conference in Tampa, FL.

Conner, K., Idoko, R., *Abusuampek, A., & Saintus, M. (9/5/2024). *Racial Equity Consciousness Institute (RECI): Illuminating the Vaccine for Racism.* Oral Presentation at the International Conference on Remedies to Racial and Social Injustice in Capetown, SA.

Conner, K., Gum, A., & *Abusuampek, A. (4/12/24). *Clinical Advances in Health Equity.* Oral Presentation at the 2026 Health Equity Summit Blue Bell, Pennsylvania

Conner, K., Kosyluk, K., & Tran, J. (1/13/22). *Impact of the This Is My Brave: Stories From The Black Community Intervention on Stigma and Attitudes about Mental Illness Treatment.* Oral Presentation at the Society for Social Work Research Annual Conference (SSWR) in Phoenix, AZ.

Conner, K. (10/7/22). *Giving Voice to Silenced Populations: The needs of Older Black LGBTQ+ Communities*. Oral Presentation (Keynote Address) at the In My Mind Annual Conference in New York, NY.

Davis-Cotton, D., **Conner, K.**, Kosyluk, K., & Tran, J*. (10/27/22). *REACH: Arts Integration to Reduce Disparities in Education and Enhance Mental Health*. Oral Presentation (Symposium) at the Arts Schools Network Annual Conference in Las Vegas, NV.

Conner, K. (10/25/22). *Comparative Effectiveness Research as a Strategy to Enhance Health Equity*. Oral Presentation and Moderator (Virtually) for the Annual Meeting of the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), Washington, DC.

Davis-Cotton, D., **Conner, K.**, Kosyluk, K., & Tran, J. (5/28/22). *Intersectional Mental Health Stories: The Impact of Black and APIDA Voices*. Oral Presentation (Symposium) at the Association for Psychological Sciences Annual Conference in Chicago, IL.

Conner, K. (1/12/22). *Barriers and Facilitators to Recruiting Racial and Ethnic Minorities into Research*. Oral Presentation (Virtually) for the Advanced Research Institute in Geriatric Psychiatry, Hartford, CT.

Conner, K. (11/21/21). *The Benefit of Peer Education toward Reducing Symptoms of Depression Among Older African Americans*. Peer Oral Presentation at the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies (Virtually). New Orleans, LA.

Conner, K., Kosyluk, K., Tran, J., & Anderson, E. (11/15/2021). *The impact of a storytelling intervention for reducing stigma and enhancing attitudes about mental health treatment*. Second Place Scientific Research Award. Oral Presentation at the International Conference on Stigma (virtually). Washington, DC.

Conner, K., Kosyluk, K., Tran, J., & Anderson, E. (11/18/2021). *This Is My Brave (TIMB) as a culturally meaningful approach toward reducing stigma and enhancing attitudes about mental health treatment*. Oral Presentation at the International Conference on Stigma (virtually). Washington, DC.

Kosyluk, K., **Conner, K.**, Jeffries & Carver (03/19/2019). *Mental Illness Stigma and Suicidality Among Younger Adults*. Oral Presentation at the Florida Suicide Prevention Conference, Tallahassee, FL.

Kosyluk, K., **Conner, K.**, Jeffries & Carver (03/09/2019). *Mental Illness Stigma and Suicidality Among Younger Adults*. Oral Presentation at the Child, Adolescent and Young Adult Behavioral Health Conference, Tampa, FL.

Conner, K., & Bugos J. (02/14/2019). *African Drumming for Dementia: Strategies for Initiation of Culturally Sensitive Intervention to Impact Behavioral Outcomes*. Keynote Presentation at the Vascular Dementia Conference, Amsterdam, Netherlands.

Conner, K., & Gum, A. (11/15/2018). *Behavioral Activation Through Peer Support as a Strategy for Reducing Hospital Readmissions Among Older Adults with Chronic Medical illness and Depression*. Oral Presentation at the 20th International Conference on Psychiatry and Mental Disorders, Cape town South Africa.

Conner, K., & Gum, A. (11/16/2018). *Enhancing the Care Transitions Intervention with Peer Support to Improve Outcomes Among Older Adults with Co-Occurring Clinical Depression*. Oral Presentation at the 20th International Conference on Psychiatry and Mental Disorders, Cape town South Africa.

Conner, K.O., & Patterson, J. (6/2/2018). *The psychological and physical health benefits of culturally-oriented dance*. Performance Art Medicine Conference, Tampa, FL.

***Johnson, A., & Conner, K.** (10/2/2016). *It Gets Better with Time: The Perception of Stigma in Older Adults who have experienced a Co-Occurring Mental Health Diagnosis*. Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference of Undergraduate Scholarship, Lynchburg, VA.

Conner, K., *McKinnon, S., *Roker, R., & Brown, C. (10/10/2016). *The Mechanisms behind Internalized Stigma Reduction Through Contact with a Peer* (Poster Presentation). NIMH Health Services Conferences, Washington, DC.

Conner, K., *McKinnon, S.* Roker, R., & Brown, C. (10/11/2016). *The Effect of Peer Education on Internalized Stigma Among Older Adults with Depression* (Poster Presentation). NIMH Health Services Conferences, Washington, DC.

Conner, K., *Ward, C., *McKinnon, S., & Brown, C (1/30/2016). *Peer Education as a Strategy for Reducing Internalized Stigma among Older Adults with Depression* (Poster Presentation). Research That Matters Conference, Tampa, FL.

Conner, K. (3/25/2015). *Engaging in Successful Community Based Research*. Aging in America Conference, Chicago, IL.

Conner, K., *Ward, C., & Brown, C (1/16/2015). *The Role of Peer Education on Mitigating the Impact of Stigma* (Poster Presentation). Society for Social Work Research Conference. New Orleans, LA.

Conner, K., & Brown, C (1/27/2014). *Peer Education: Strategies for Enhancing Productive Aging and Community Engagement among Depressed Elders of Color*. The World Psychotherapy Congress, Johannesburg, South Africa.

Conner, K. (1/28/2014). *Attitudes and Beliefs about Mental Health Treatment among Older Adults of Color Suffering from Depression: The Impact of Stigma*. The World Psychotherapy Congress, Johannesburg, South Africa.

Conner, K.O., & Brown, C (3/13/2014). *Peer Education: Opportunity for Productive Aging and Community Engagement for Depressed Elders of Color*. Aging In America Conference, San Diego, CA.

Conner, K. (04/18/2014). *Peer Education in the African American Community* (Poster Presentation). National Association for Developmental Disabilities (NADD) conference, Orlando, FL.

Conner, K. (10/24/2014). *Racial Differences in Attitudes about Mental Health: Impact of Service Utilization* (Poster Presentation). National Association for Developmental Disabilities (NADD) conference, Orlando, FL.

*McKinnon, SA, & **Conner, K.** (12/1/2014). *The effect of a peer educator intervention on the reduction of perceived public and internalized stigma in depressed older adults*. IMSD-BMRS Undergraduate Research Symposium at San Diego State University, San Diego, CA

Conner, K., & Brown, C. (12/2/2014). *Peer Education: A Culturally Relevant Strategy for Reducing Internalized Stigma with Mental Illness* (Poster Presentation). Minority Health and Health Disparities Conference. National Harbor, MD.

*McKinnon, SA, & **Conner, K.** (12/06/2014). *The effect of a peer educator intervention on the reduction of perceived public and internalized stigma in depressed older adults* (Poster presentation). The Society for Advancement of Hispanics/Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS), Los Angeles, CA.

Conner, K., Brown C (3/15/2013). *Peer Education and Aging: Strategies for Recovery*. American Society on Aging Conference, Chicago, IL.

Conner, K. (10/15/2013). *Internalized Stigma and Treatment Seeking Among Depressed African Americans*. The Internalized Stigma of Mental Illness Conference, Baltimore, MD.

Conner, K. (11/15/2013). *The impact of internalized stigma on mental health attitudes and service utilization among older adults with depression*. The International Society for Affective Disorders Congress, London, UK.

Conner, K. (11/16/2013). *Peer education as productive engagement for depressed elders of color*. The International Society for Affective Disorders Congress, London, UK.

Conner, K.; Brown C (3/29/2011). *Health and Mental Health Disparities among Older Adults: The Impact of Race*. American Society on Aging Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA.

Conner, K., Brown, C., McMurray, M., Lee, B., Reynolds, C. (3/09/2010). *Giving Back to Their Communities: Peer Educators as a Civic Engagement Opportunity for Depressed African American Older Adults*. American Society on Aging Annual Conference, Chicago, IL.

Conner, K., Rosen, D., Wexler, S., & Brown, C. (3/10/2010). “ *It’s like night and day. He’s Black. I’m White*”: *Shared Stigmas between Counselors and Older Adult Methadone Clients*. American Society on Aging Annual Conference, Chicago, IL.

Conner, K., Brown, C., McMurray, M., Lee, B., Reynolds, C. (4/13/2010). *Peer Educators as a Bridge to Treatment for Depressed African American Older Adults*. (Poster Presentation). Quality of Behavioral Health Care Annual Conference, Clearwater, FL.

Conner, K., Brown, C., McMurray, M., Lee, B., Reynolds, C. (4/13/2010). *Giving Back to Their Communities: Updates on the Depression Peer Educator Project*. Quality of Behavioral Health Annual Conference, Clearwater, FL.

Conner, K. Copeland, V., Grote, N., Rosen, D., Koseke, G., Reynolds, C., & Brown, C. (1/27/2009). *The Impact of Living With Depression in the Black Community on Mental Health Treatment Seeking Among African American Older Adults*. Oral Presentation at the Society for Social Work Research Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.

Conner, K. Copeland, V., Grote, N., Rosen, D., Koseke, G., Reynolds, C., & Brown, C. (1/28/2009). *Mental Health Treatment Seeking Among Older Adults with Depression: The Impact of Stigma and Race*. Oral Presentation at the Society for Social Work Research Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.

Brown, C., **Conner, K.,** Mayers, V. N., Robinson, D., Lee, B. (8/19/2009). *Training Peer Educators to Improve Engagement in Depression Treatment in Community Based Primary Care Settings*. (Poster Presentation) NACHC Community Health Institute and Expo, Chicago, IL.

Kasckow, J., Ingram, E., Brown, C., Tew, J., **Conner, K.** , Morse, J., Haas, G. , Reynolds, C., Oslin, D. (12/27/2009). *Treatment Preferences Between Subsyndromally Depressed African American and Caucasian Primary Care Veterans*. APA Institute for Psychiatric Services meeting, Boston, MA.

Conner, K. Copeland, V., Grote, N., Rosen, D., Koseke, G., Reynolds, C., & Brown, C. (10/8/2008). *Barriers to Treatment and Cultural Coping Strategies for African American Older Adults With Depression*. Poster Presentation at the University of Pittsburgh Institute on Aging, Pittsburgh, PA.

Conner, K. Copeland, V., Grote, N., Rosen, D., Koseke, G., Reynolds, C., & Brown, C. (12/17/2008). *Barriers to Treatment and Cultural Coping Strategies for African American Older Adults With Depression*. (Poster Presentation), NIH Summit: The Science of Eliminating Health Disparities, National Harbor, Maryland.

Castillo, E., **Conner, K.,** & Brown, C. (12/17/2008). *Racial Identification and the Impact of Stigma*. Poster Presentation at the NIH Summit: The Science of Eliminating Health Disparities, National Harbor, Maryland.

Conner, K., Rosen, Daniel. (1/13/2007). *“You’re Nothing But a Junkie”: Multiple Experiences Of Stigma in an Aging Methadone Maintenance Population*. Oral Presentation at the Society for Social Work Research Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA.

Conner, K., Rosen, Daniel (3/24/2007). *The Multiple Experiences of Stigma on Older Adult Opiate Addicts*. Oral Presentation at the American Society on Aging Annual Conference, Washington, DC.

* Recipient of ASA’s Graduate Student Research Award*

Conner, K., Mayers, V. N., Robinson, D., Lee, B., & Brown, C. (6/27/2007). *Bridges To Improved Depression Care Among Older African American Primary Care Patients*. Oral Presentation at the National Mental Health of America Annual Conference, Washington, DC.

Conner, K., Mayers, V. N., Robinson, D., Lee, B., & Brown, C. (7/24/2007). *Beliefs About Depression and Depression Treatment Among Older African Americans*. Poster Presentation at the National Institute of Mental Health, Mental Health Services Research Conference, Washington, DC.

Mayers, V. N., **Conner, K.,** Robinson, D., & Brown, C. (10/28/2007). *Training Graduate Students to Conduct Mental Health Research in Community Settings*. Oral Presentation at the Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting, San Francisco, CA.

Conner, K., Mayers, V. N., Robinson, D., & Brown, C. (10/29/2007). *Development and Evaluation of a Protocol to Train Older African American Peer Educators*. Oral Presentation at the Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting, San Francisco, CA.

Conner, K., Mayers, V. N., Robinson, D., & Brown, C. (11/19/2007). *Treatment Preferences Among Older African Americans with Depression*. Oral Presentation at the Gerontological Society of American Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA

Conner, K. O., Koeske, G., Brown, C. (10/11/2006). *Racial Differences in Attitudes Toward Seeking Mental Health Treatment*. (Poster Presentation) University Of Pittsburgh Institute on Aging Poster Conference, Pittsburgh, PA.

* Recipient of Graduate Student Presenter Award*

Conner, K. O., Davis-Jones, L., Singer, J. B. (10/28/2006). Incorporating social justice into transformative multicultural education. Oral Presentation at the 52nd annual program meeting of the Council on Social Work Education, Chicago, Illinois

Singer, J.B., Maguire, L., **Conner, K.** (10/28/2006) *How to Hire and Recruit New Faculty: Utilizing Students in the Process*. Oral Presentation at the 52nd annual program meeting of the Council on Social Work Education, Chicago, Illinois.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION PRESENTATIONS & TRAININGS

Conner, K. (2025, 24, 23) *Moving from Cultural Competence to Cultural Humility*. Virtual

Conner, K. (2024) *Addressing Bias in the Workplace*. National Alliance on Mental Illness, FL

Conner, K. (2023) *Mental Health and Student Wellness* (4-hour training), Winston Salem University.

Conner, K. (2022) *Addressing Mental Health in the Black Community*. Tampa Black Leadership Institute, Tampa, FL.

Conner, K. (2022) *Exploring the Intersection of Race, Mental Health and Criminal Justice*. Criminal Justice Symposium, USF.

Conner, K. (2022) *Using Community Based Participatory Research to Address Disparities in Communities of Color*. Translational Science Research Institute Conference, USF.

Conner, K. (2022) *Addressing Disparities in Maternal Morbidity and Mortality*. DEI speaker series, Eckerd College.

Conner, K. (2022) *Racism is a Public Health Crisis*. Keynote Speaker, Envision Racism Community Presentation, Tampa, FL.

Conner, K. (2021) *Understanding and Addressing Race-Based Trauma*. Keynote Speaker, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), Atlanta, GA.

Conner, K. (2021) *Addressing Race-Based Trauma in Clinical Settings* (2-part training series). Cognitive Behavior Institute, LLC, Philadelphia, PA.

Conner, K. (2020) *Diversity, Equity and Antiracism Training* (4-part series). The Spring of Tampa Bay, Tampa, FL.

Conner, K. (2020) *Code-Switching and Its Impact on Black Employees*. Centene Corporation, Tampa, FL.

Conner, K. (2020) *Exploring the Intersections of Historical Trauma, Race and Criminal Justice* (2-hour training). Technical Assistance Center, Tampa, FL.

Conner, K. (2020) *Exploring the Intersections of Historical Trauma, Race and Child Welfare* (2-hour training). Child Welfare Center, Tampa, FL.

Conner, K. (2020). *Exploring the Intersections of Historical Trauma, Race and Mental Health* Presentation at the Virtual Youth Mental Health Summit, National Event.

Conner, K. (2020). *Why Should we Celebrate Juneteenth?* Keynote address and training for Wellcare (Centene Corporation), Tampa, FL.

Conner, K. (2020). *Cultural Competency Training* (level 2:3-hour training for staff). Early Jail Diversion Program, Tampa, FL.

Conner, K. (2020). *Cultural Competency Training* (level 2:3-hour training for administrators and leadership). Early Jail Diversion Program, Tampa, FL.

Conner, K. (2019). *Understanding the Intersection of Race and Health*. Training for Wellcare (Centene Corporation), Tampa, FL.

Conner, K. (2019). *Cultural Competency Training* (level 1:4-hour training). Early Jail Diversion Program, Tampa, FL.

Conner, K. (2019). *Mental Health and the Black Community*. Keynote presentation at the Black History Month Research event, New College, Sarasota, FL.

Conner, K. & De Jesus, E. (2016). *How to Reduce Anger among Older Adults living with Depression*. Hillsborough Housing Authority, Tampa, FL.

Conner, K. (2015). *How to Reduce Stigma among Individuals Living with Mental Illness*. Stigma: A Summit on Mental Health, Miami, FL.

Conner, K. (2015). *Culture and Mental Illness: The Role of Race and Ethnicity in Behavioral Health Disparities*. Presentation at the Institute on Black Life Speaker Series, Tampa, FL.

Conner, K. (2014). *The Impact of Stigma on Health*. Presentation to the Mood and Emotional Lab, Department of Psychology, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL.

Conner, K. (2014). *How to complete an Effective Community Based Research Proposal*. Presentation to the New Ventures in Leadership Incoming Class. American Society on Aging Annual, San Francisco, CA.

Conner, K. (2014). *The Paradox of the African Women*. Presentation at the Institute on Black Life Speaker Series, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL.

Conner, K. (2013). *Obamacare and the Black Community*. Presentation to the Business Council at the White House, Washington, DC.

Conner, K. (2012). *Giving Back to Their Communities: Peer Educators as a Civic Engagement Opportunity for Depressed African American Older Adults*. Presentation to Center on Race and Social Problems Mental Health Research Group, University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work, Pittsburgh, PA.

GRADUATE AND UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING

Graduate Courses

Global Perspectives in Social Work (SW 2035), School of Social Work, University of Pittsburgh

Community-Based Participatory Research and Evaluation (MHS 6742) Doctoral course, USF

Human Growth and Development, Rehabilitation Counseling (MHS 5480), USF

Directed Research in Behavioral and Community Sciences (MHS 6915), USF

Couples Therapy, School of Social Work, University of Pittsburgh

Models of Intervention, School of Social Work, University of Pittsburgh

Cognitive Behavioral Theory, School of Social Work, University of Pittsburgh

Interpersonal Psychotherapy, School of Social Work, University of Pittsburgh

Undergraduate Courses

Global Perspectives in Social Work (SW 1035), School of Social Work, University of Pittsburgh

Research Methods, School of Social Work, University of Pittsburgh

Cultural Diversity, Health and Behavioral Health (MHS 3063), MHLP, USF

Mental Health and Addictive Disorders (MHS 2031), MHLP, USF in London

Behavioral Health and the Family (MHS 4434), MHLP, USF

Mental Health First Aid (3 weeks during MHS 3411), MHLP, USF

Cultural Diversity and Health Disparities Special Topics (MHS 4931), MHLP, USF

Study Abroad

May 2026 Social Work in South Africa

Summer 2022 USF in London

Summer 2019 USF in London

Summer 2018 USF in London

Summer 2017 USF in London

TV AND MEDIA APPEARANCES

2026-National Day of Racial Healing-Opening Remarks, University of Pittsburgh Center on Race & Social Problems: <https://youtu.be/984JpOrzHCw?si=1biHvnf2vvVtYjUr>

2025- Press Conference Coverage (New Pittsburgh Courier)-Spoke at a March 17 community press conference at Freedom Unlimited in the Hill District addressing federal DEI rollbacks.

2023- Social Work Podcast- Episode 4-*Social Work, Academia, and Overcoming Stigma*

2023- Let's Talk Social Innovation Podcast– *Featured guest discussing social work, stigma, and academic pathways.*

2023- Session 5: Eyes on Equity – The Role of Trauma & Systemic Racism in Health Outcomes Conversation with Natasha Pierre on systemic racism and trauma.

<https://youtu.be/oU2T9MoQ8NM?si=N9AiMQqBHYjBB79b>

2023- Kya Conner Keynote_Race & Conference, University of Pittsburgh

<https://youtu.be/GQvKHrmd0U?si=OJTmE04Rj4yH4r7b>

2022- Spectrum News 9 (social Justice Series) Interview, *The Crown Act*

2021- Spectrum News 9 interview, *This is My Brave: Stories from the Black Community*

2021- Spectrum News 9 (social Justice Series) Interview, *The rise of Black Santa*

2020- Spectrum News 9 interview, *How to Reduce Disparities in Communities of Color*

2020- Spectrum News 9 interview, *The Impact of New Legislation on Health Disparities*

2020- Spectrum News 9 interview, *Significance of the New Purple Alerts*

2020- Reflections on the inauguration of Vice President Kamala Harris [Kyaen Conner on this Monumental Moment in History](#)

2019-BYU Radio – The Lisa Show: “Code Switching” Segment -Featured expert discussing code-switching and its impact on BIPOC individuals navigating workplace culture.

THESIS AND DISSERTATION COMMITTEES

2026- Dissertation Committee Member, Guoping Jin, PhD student in the School of Social Work, University of Pittsburgh

2025-	Dissertation Committee Member, Latrice Shannon, PhD student in the School of Social Work, University of Pittsburgh
2025-	Dissertation Committee Chair, Daniel Abusuampeh, PhD student in the School of Social Work, University of Pittsburgh
2022-	Dissertation Committee Member, Alexandra Albizou-Jacob, PhD student in the Department of Mental Health Law and Policy, USF
2023- 2024	Dissertation Committee Member, Gabrielle Scott, PhD student in the School of Social Work at University of Texas at Austin
2021- 2024	Dissertation Committee Chair, Ana Aluisy, PhD student in the Department of Mental Health Law and Policy, USF
2020- 2026	Dissertation Committee Chair, Erica Anderson, PhD student in the Department of Mental Health Law and Policy, USF
2020-2023	Dissertation Committee Chair, Juanita Patterson-Price, PhD student in the Department of Mental Health Law and Policy, USF
2019- 2022	Dissertation Committee Member, Sarah Scheffield, PhD student in the Department of Mental Health Law and Policy, USF
2019-2021	Dissertation Committee Member, Joshua Barnett, PhD student in the Department of Mental Health Law and Policy, USF
2019-2021	Dissertation Committee Member, Amanda Weston, PhD student in the Department of Mental Health Law and Policy, USF
2017-2018	Chair-Honors Thesis, Megan Trout, candidate for a BA in Psychology, University of South Florida, St Petersburg, FL Thesis Title: A Systematic Review of HIV/AIDS in the Deaf Community.
2016-2017	Chair- Honors Thesis, Tiffany O'Brian, candidate for a BS in Behavioral Healthcare, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL. Thesis Project: The Development of a Wellness Guide for Families/Children with Chronic Illness.
2015- 2016	Chair- Honors Thesis, Semhal Redda, candidate for a BS in Psychology, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL. Thesis title: International Perspectives on Cultural Differences in Mental Illness.
2014-2018	Dissertation Committee Member, Rosalyn Roker, MS, PhD candidate in Aging Studies, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL. Dissertation Title: Perspectives of Older Blacks and Whites living with Serious Mental Illness about Outpatient Mental Health Services.

2014	Dissertation Defense Chair, Tiffany Young, PhD in Aging Studies, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL. Dissertation title: "Having Our Say": Exploring the Processes and Feasibility of a Community-Based Participatory Intergenerational Physical Activity Program for Grandparents and Grandchildren.
2011-2014	Masters Committee Member, Stephanie Vigil, BS; Masters Degree candidate in Public Health, University of Pittsburgh. MPH Thesis title: Giving Young Females a Voice: Perspectives of Somali Bantu Refugees Participating in a Wellness and Leadership Development Program

MENTORSHIP PROGRAMS

Advanced Research for Geriatric Psychiatry (ARI) (Mentee: Ling Xu, PhD, Associate Professor University of Texas at Arlington)	2026-current
Advanced Research for Geriatric Psychiatry (ARI) (Mentee: Dawne Mouzon, PhD, Associate Professor Rutgers University)	2025-current
Research Career Institute in the Mental Health of Aging (CIMA) (Mentee: Lilcelia A. Williams, PhD, Research Faculty UPMC)	2025-current
McKnight Doctoral Fellowship Mentorship Program (Mentee: Allahon Bailey)	2022-current
Research, Innovation & Scholarly Endeavors (RISE) Team, USF (Mentee: Meera Ratini)	2022
Research, Innovation & Scholarly Endeavors (RISE) Team, USF (Mentee: Tameka Guillaume)	2022
McKnight Doctoral Fellowship Mentorship Program (Mentee: Erica Anderson)	2019-current
Academic Mentors, Black Faculty and Staff Association Mentor-Ship program (Mentee: Aldenise Ewing)	2019
Academic Mentor, Black Faculty and Staff Association Mentor-Ship program (Mentee: Alaina Branford)	2016
Research Mentor, Summer Research Institute at University of South Florida (Mentee: Angela Johnson)	2016
Research Mentor, Summer Research Institute at University of South Florida (Mentee: Symone McKinnon)	2014

Research Mentorship:

2026-Current Thelda Sarpong, MSW/PhD student of Social Work, Pitt

2024-Current Shameka Sparrow, Doctoral Student of Social Work, Pitt

2023-Current Daniel Abusuampek, Doctoral Student of Social Work, Pitt

2021-Current Ana Aluisy, Doctoral Student CBCS, USF

2019-Current Nicole Crawford, Doctoral candidate School of Public Health, USF

2018-Current Erica Anderson; Doctoral student CBCS, USF

2021-2024 Kayla Nemhard, Doctoral Student School of Public health, USF

2017-2023 Juanita Patterson Price; Doctoral student CBCS, USF

2016-2023 Helenda Davis; Candidate for a BS in Behavioral Healthcare, USF

2016-2023 Tiffany Obrien; Candidate for a BS in Behavioral Healthcare, USF

2016-2023 Angela Johnson; Candidate for a BS in Psychology, Mary Baldwin University,

2015-2018, Semhal Redda; Candidate for a BS in Psychology, USF

2014-2018 Rosalyn Roker; PhD Candidate in Aging Studies, USF

2014-2018 Stephanie A. McKinnon; Summer Research Institute Mentee, University of San Diego, CA.

Clinical Mentorship:

2020-2022 Nathalie Marecelin, MSW Candidate in Social Work, USF, Tampa, FL

2016-2018 Elenor DeJesus, BS Candidate in Behavioral Healthcare, Tampa, FL

2012-2015 Jackie Peters, LSW, Pittsburgh, PA

2012-2015 Alicia Haley, LSW, Pittsburgh, PA

2012-2015 Gena Burke, LSW, Pittsburgh, PA

2012-2015 Jasmine Wilson, LSW, Pittsburgh, PA

2012-2015 Curtis Miller, LSW, Pittsburgh, PA

SERVICE

2026-current	Board of Directors, Passport Academy Charter School, Pittsburgh, PA
2025-current	Steering Committee, Aging Friendly Greater Pittsburgh, PA
2025-current	Senior Advisory Board, Steel Smiling, Pittsburgh, PA
2025-2026	Board of Directors, Sankofa Village for Cultural Arts
2024-2026	Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Steering Committee, Pitt
2023-current	Tenure & Promotion Committee, School of SW, Pitt
2023-current	Education Policy Committee, School of SW, Pitt
2023-current	Doctoral Program Committee, School of SW, Pitt
2022-2023	Chair, Faculty Senate Council on Racial Justice, USF
2022-2023	Faculty Senate Executive Committee Member, USF
2022-2023	Member, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, CBCS, USF
2022-2023	Presidential Advisory Committee on Mental Health, USF
2022-2023	Member, Diversity Equity and Inclusion Council, USF
2021-2023	Advisory committee, Vice President for Research and Innovation, USF
2021-2023	MHLP Liaison to the CBCS PhD in Behavioral Healthcare Program
2021-2022	IPEP Task Force on Racial Bias and Diversity Task Force
2021-current	Board Member, This Is My Brave, Inc.
2021-current	Ad-Hoc Reviewer for NIH, Dementia Grants Programs
2020-2021	Ad-Hoc Reviewer Florida Criminal Justice Reinvestment Grants
2019-2024	Board Member, Partnership for Arts Integrated Teaching (PAINT)
2019-2024	American Psychiatric Association, Technical Expert Panel member
2019-2021	Mental Health Law and Policy Governance Council Member
2018	Ad-Hoc Reviewer for NIH, Mental Health Services Division
2018-2021	Vice President National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) BOD, FL
2017	MHLP Hiring Committee
2016-2018	Member, Faculty Senate, Undergraduate Council
2015-2018	Member-Diversity Committee, College of Behavioral and Community Sciences, University of South Florida
2015-2021	State Liaison- National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Hillsborough
2014-2021	Board Member- National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) FL
2014-2018	Chair- Education Committee, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)
2014-2015	MHLP department member of College Tenure & Promotion committee
2014-2015	Member-College of Behavioral and Community Studies PhD Program development committee
2014-2015	Board Member- Tampa Heights Junior Civic Association
2013-2015	Member-USF Internationalizing the curriculum Faculty Service committee
2013-2015	Faculty Sponsor USF Dance Organization
2012-2015	Member of the Diversity Task Force, Institute for Clinical Research Education, University of Pittsburgh, PA
2012-2015	Board Member of the Career Education and Enhancement for Health Care Research Diversity (CEED) program, Pittsburgh, PA
2012-2015	New Ventures in Leadership Re-Development Task Force
2011- 2013	MSW Student Advisor and Field Liaison (10 students)

2010-2013	Board of the New Ventures in Leadership Program (ASA)
2006-2008	President of the Social Work Doctoral Student Organization
2005-2008	Doctoral Student Representative for the Doctoral Faculty committee
2005-2008	Doctoral Student Representative for the Academic Integrity and Review Committee

Other Research Related Service Activities:

Editor & Chief, Journal on Race and Social Problems
Section Editor, Mental Health, Alzheimer's & Dementia: Behavior & Socioeconomics of Aging
Ad hoc Writer for Psychology Today
Editorial Board, Global Scientific Research Journals, Geriatrics and Psychiatry
Ad hoc reviewer for the Journal of Health Disparities Research and Practice
Ad hoc reviewer for the International Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry
Ad hoc reviewer for the Journal of Internal Medicine

MEMBERSHIPS IN PROFESSIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES

Black Administrators, Researchers and Scholars in SW	2023-
National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI)	2013-
American Society on Aging (ASA)	2009-
Association for Gerontology Education in Social Work (AGE-SW)	2006-
National Association of Black Social Workers (NABSW)	2004-
Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR)	2004-

HONORS AND AWARDS

2025	Woman of Excellence Award, Pittsburgh Courier, Pittsburgh, PA
2022	School of Social Work Distinguished Alumni Award, University of Pittsburgh
2022	Community Partner Award, Tampa Heights Junior Civic Association, Tampa, FL
2021-2022	Chancellors Award For Excellence in Civic and Community Engagement, USF
2020-2021	Outstanding Black Faculty Member of the Year, USF
2018-2019	McKnight Junior Faculty Fellowship Award
2018	College of Behavioral and Community Sciences International Travel Award
2015-2016	Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award, USF
2013	Travel Award to attend the Advanced Research in Geriatric Psychiatry Institute
2012	Travel Award to attend the ASCP Randomized Controlled trial workshop, NY
2011	Travel Award to attend the Early Career Women Faculty Professional Development Seminar, Washington, DC
2009	Travel Award to attend the Summer Research Institute for Geriatric Psychiatry, University of Michigan
2009	Travel Award to attend the Career Development Institute for Psychiatry, Stanford University, CA

2009-2016	NIH Loan Repayment Program Recipient
2009	Scholarship for the ASA New Ventures in Leadership Program
2008	GI Aging Fellowship Award
2008	Graduation with Departmental Honors, Dissertation passed with Distinction
2006-2008	Recipient of the Hartford Doctoral Fellows Award
2007	Travel Award to attend the MCUAAAR Training Fellow in Older African American Mental Health, University of Michigan
2006-2007	Recipient of the AS Aging Graduate Student Research Award
2006	Institute on Aging Graduate Student Presenter Award
2005-2006	Recipient of the Hartford Doctoral Pre-Dissertation Award
2005-2006	Recipient of the CSWE Minority Research Fellowship Award