

## STUDENT PROFILE: MELISSIA GRANT



This month, master's student Melissia Grant (ASEC) shares her experience working with the Multicultural Efforts to End Sexual Assault (MESA) program as part of ASEC 590 (Global Learning in AFNR) taught by Dr. Mark Russell in spring 2020.

*Multicultural Efforts to End Sexual Assault (MESA) is a statewide program committed to preventing sexual violence in multicultural communities and other underserved and underrepresented populations in Indiana. MESA provides communities with culturally relevant tools and strives to create a voice for those who might not be heard otherwise. Through ASEC 590 (Global Learning in Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources), we were challenged to work in collaboration with a local partner to respond to a need here in our community. A partnership with MESA allowed for the ability to create, engage, and distribute a fotonovela into the hands of undocumented children, rural women, migrant farmers, and others with little access to those who make decisions over their lives. Through the power of photography, this process of empowerment enables the Latino community in Indiana to effectively communicate their rights if ever in a situation of fear.*

## FACULTY TO WATCH: NATALIA RODRIGUEZ



Dr. Natalia Rodriguez is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Public Health in the College of Health and Human Sciences. In April 2020, she initiated a community-academic partnership with LTHC Homeless Services and other community-based organizations in Lafayette to understand how the

COVID-19 pandemic has impacted people experiencing homelessness. She leads an interdisciplinary team of students in Public Health, Anthropology, Pharmacy, Biomedical Engineering, and Human Development and Family Studies who are examining multilevel determinants of health among this vulnerable homeless population.

Through this work, students have the opportunity to engage with LTHC and other community partners such as Family Promise, Lafayette Urban Ministry, Riggs Community Health, Salvation Army, and the City of Lafayette to understand how this community prepared for, experienced, and responded to the pandemic. Community-based participatory research projects like these enable students to learn from and work with community leaders to develop programmatic interventions that are relevant and appropriate for marginalized communities. This mutual co-learning is a powerful way to combine knowledge and action for social change to improve the community's health and reduce health disparities.

## COMMUNITY PARTNER HIGHLIGHT: THE PURDUE KENYA PARTNERSHIP

The Purdue Kenya Partnership (PKP) has been using global service-learning to support the development of Purdue student pharmacists since 2003. The PKP is part of a consortium of North American academic institutions known as AMPATH (Academic Model Providing Access to Healthcare). AMPATH partners with Kenyan universities, health systems, and ministries of health to provide high-quality, sustainable healthcare in western Kenya.

Since 2004, the PKP has provided an 8-week pharmacy practice experience in Eldoret, Kenya to 315 Purdue

## COMMUNITY PARTNER HIGHLIGHT CONTINUED

student pharmacists in the College of Pharmacy. Students have taken part in healthcare delivery and designing activities to address social determinants of health through collaborations with four Kenyan community partners: the Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital, the Riley Mother Baby Hospital, the Shoe4Africa Pediatric Hospital, and Tumaini- an alternative school for at-risk youth. Through these partnerships, 69 Purdue students have lead 23 service-learning projects and been awarded more than \$75,000 in grants through the Purdue Office of Engagement and Indiana Campus Compact to address community-identified needs in Kenya. Students' projects have secured supplies for an anticoagulation clinic, created a sewing training program for parents, and even provided music experience programming for street youth. Students also receive mentoring in research and scholarship through the PKP with 93 students presenting posters and 21 students publishing peer-reviewed articles about their experiences.

## STUDENT GRANT PROGRAM FOR SERVICE-LEARNING PROJECTS

The Office of Engagement continues to invite applications for the Student Grant Program for Community Service/Service-Learning Projects, which seeks to expand the involvement of Purdue students in partnership with communities, nonprofit agencies, schools, and governmental bodies. Program application and guidelines can be found [HERE](#). The official spring 2021 deadline has passed, but new applications are still being reviewed on a rolling basis.

For more information contact Lisa Duncan at [lduncan@purdue.edu](mailto:lduncan@purdue.edu) or (765) 494-0899.

## SERVICE-LEARNING RESOURCES

### Brightspace Site for Instructors:

Request to be added [HERE](#)

**Have a feature for our newsletter? Want to be added to our listserv? Looking for a community partner for your service-learning course?**

Contact: [Lindsey Payne](#), Director of Service-Learning

## JOANN MILLER EXEMPLARY COMMUNITY PARTNER AWARD

The Office of Engagement seeks applications for the JoAnn Miller Exemplary Community Partner Award for 2020. This award recognizes local nonprofits, schools, or government units that contribute to the educational growth of Purdue students by providing volunteer and service-learning opportunities. It includes a \$1,000 cash prize. In 2015, the award was renamed in memory of JoAnn L. Miller, who was Associate Dean of Engagement and head of the School of Interdisciplinary Studies in the College of Liberal Arts. She worked passionately to further engagement with the community by Purdue students, faculty, and staff. Past award winners include Glen Acres Elementary School, Caregiver Companion, Drug Free Coalition of Tippecanoe County, Food Finders Food Bank, Hanna Community Center, LTHC Homeless Services, and the Wabash Center.

Applications are due **March 19, 2021** at 5:00 PM and can be submitted [HERE](#).