Chair of the Hampton University Chemistry and Biochemistry Department, Dr. Oluwatoyin Ajibola Asojo, Awarded $1,125,000 NIH Grant to Increase Diversity in Biomedical Careers

Dr. Oluwatoyin Ajibola Asojo, Chair of the Hampton University Chemistry and Biochemistry Department, has received a Diversity Program Consortium (DPC) Dissemination and Translation Award of $1,125,000 from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to deploy and test evidence-based interventions to increase diversity in biomedical careers. As there is an urgent need to increase the diversity of the biomedical workforce, this project will use the interventions to improve student competency in gatekeeper chemistry courses at Hampton University.

“Even though the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact our daily lives, our faculty have stepped up and doubled their efforts in securing funding to make sure that Hampton University excels above the rest. Congratulations to Dr. Oluwatoyin Asojo for her determination to secure this grant that aims to help increase the diversity of the biomedical workforce,” said Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey.

The project is titled “HU-ChEM: Deploying Evidence-Based Interventions in Chemistry at Hampton University to Plug Leaks in the Biomedical Training Pipeline.” For this project, Hampton University will receive an award amount of $375,000 for three years for a total of $1,125,000. Dr. Asojo will deploy an education and mentorship program to increase the persistence of underrepresented minority students in biomedical careers.

“I am excited to deploy the Hampton University Chemistry Education and Mentorship (HU-ChEM) intervention program. There are three components of HU-ChEM: 1) HU-ChEM SCALE-UP where we teach an entry-level chemistry course for STEM majors using the Student-Centered Active Learning Environment with Upside-down Pedagogies (SCALE-UP), 2) HU-ChEM CUREs; a pre-college Course-based Undergraduate Research Experiences (CUREs), and 3) HU-ChEM faculty development, offers enhanced chemistry faculty training,” Dr. Asojo said.

Over the course of the 3-year study, those involved in the project will use DPC survey tools to measure and monitor hallmarks of student, faculty and institutional success. They will collect both quantitative and qualitative data, and use robust statistical analysis to measure the effects of HU-ChEM interventions on participants compared to matched controls in the short-, medium- and long-terms.

“I am looking forward to implementing these evidence-based methods to improve learner outcomes in chemistry while conducting rigorous STEM educational research. I am also excited to work with the NIGMS, University of Texas El Paso, and our internal team, including Co-Investigators: Drs. Peter Njoki, Francis Erebeholo, Rikesha L. Fry Brown, Luisel Ricks-Santi, and Michelle Penn-Marshall; and Chemistry and Biochemistry faculty,” said Dr. Asojo. “In addition to improving student success in a first-year level gatekeeper chemistry course, we will generate much-needed outcomes data to inform on best practices in trainee, faculty, and institutional success.”

“It is an honor to serve alongside these talented, distinguished, and diverse group of scientists as we seek to plug leaks on the biomedical training pipeline at Hampton University by deploying evidence-based intervention in Chemistry,” said Dr. Francis Erebeholo, Assistant Professor for the Hampton University Department of Mathematics. “This is a great opportunity for undergraduate mathematics students in the biomedical track to gain exposure to authentic research experience and mentorship from seasoned faculty in the department of Chemistry.”

Analysis of the data generated from HU-ChEM will reveal cost-effective ways of deploying intervention programs to plug the leaky biomedical training pipeline.

Peloton Makes In-Kind Gift Valued at Approximately $1.3 Million to Keep Hampton University Students Healthy and Connected

Hampton University is one of 10 HBCUs across the country that is receiving the vital gifts of health, fitness, and community from Peloton, the leading interactive fitness platform in the world, and GRAMMY® Award-winning global entertainer and entrepreneur, Beyoncé, who announced a broad, multi-year partnership rooted in the celebration of music -- a central component of the Peloton class experience -- and pro-social initiatives. Hampton students will be receiving 2-year Peloton Digital Memberships, which will give them access to thousands of live and on-demand classes from world-class instructors.

“Thank you to Peloton for gifting our Hampton University students with this membership. This is a great way for them to come together virtually during these unprecedented times, and to remain active and healthy,” said Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey.

Through the Peloton Digital Membership, students can access fitness anytime, anywhere with or without equipment. With strength, yoga, cardio, meditation, running, cycling and more, students can track their progress and fulfill fitness goals through the Peloton App, which allows access to a full state of fitness classes across disciplines on any iOS or Android device, Apple TV, Fire TV, Roku TVs, and Chromecast and Android TV.

Hampton University sent out emails to students with a link to sign up for their free membership. Once students have signed up for their membership, they can download the Peloton App and login with the username/password they created during the web sign-up.

Hampton students can represent their school by choosing the #Hampton Tag on their Peloton profile. Connect with Peloton on social media @onepeloton and be sure to use #HamptonOnPeloton in workout photos or videos!
Hampton University Receives Part of $15 Million Donation from The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to Create COVID-19 Testing Hub

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation announced last week that Hampton University will receive part of a $15 million donation over the next three years that will help aid in the coronavirus response at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). Through “The Just Project,” 29 of the nation’s more than 100 HBCUs have teamed up to increase access to COVID-19 diagnostic testing for campuses and their communities. The project is establishing testing hubs, and Hampton University will house one of those hubs.

“Hampton University is grateful to The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for this generous donation to set up a testing hub on our illustrious campus. With the lab equipment, additional test kits, and training and laboratory capacity for rapid test processing, Hampton University will be able to process COVID-19 tests for our faculty, staff and students, plus five other HBCUs in Virginia and West Virginia,” said Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey.

The foundation’s three-year, $15 million investment supports up to 10 of the participating HBCUs with medical, veterinary, pharmacy, and agriculture schools to serve as diagnostic “testing hubs.” Expanding test processing capacity at these “hub” institutions enables the project to extend its reach to additional institutions. Because COVID-19 is disproportionately impacting communities of color in the U.S., it is important for this demographic to have access to testing.

“The CDC is reporting that Black Americans are twice as likely to be infected and die from the virus as whites, and that infections among adults aged 18 to 22 increased 55 percent between August and September of 2020. Our nation’s HBCUs, who are more than 100 strong, serve a quarter million students in America, and face real challenges and opportunities in this pandemic,” said Allan Golston, President of U.S. Program, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

To date, The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has invested more than $350 million to support the global health response to COVID-19. This $15 million donation will support those efforts as part of the foundation’s overall COVID-19 response.

Virginia Natural Gas, Southern Company Award $500,000 to Hampton University for Critical Technology Needs

Virginia Natural Gas and its parent, Southern Company, are donating $500,000 to Hampton University to support investments in critical information technology infrastructure upgrades to effectively deliver remote learning.

The gift is part of Southern Company Foundation and its subsidiaries’ $50 million HBCU Initiative, a multi-year funding strategy announced in January 2020 that provides HBCU students with scholarships, internships, leadership development and access to technology and innovation to support career readiness.

“We are thrilled to partner with some of the country’s leading institutions of higher learning as we invest in the next generation of technology leaders,” said Thomas A. Fanning, chairman, president and CEO, Southern Company. “After speaking with many institutions across our footprint, we heard the call loud and clear: new and better technology is needed to deliver quality education to students, now and in years to come. The goal is to provide resources that will stimulate the kind of critical thinking that will allow students to embrace ideas that will drive the change required for success today and into the future. We look forward to seeing what students from these universities will achieve through the grants we are providing.”

The funds awarded to Hampton University will be used to support technology upgrades in the Center for Teaching Excellence to improve remote instruction and delivery; secure a digital transaction management system to streamline processes, secure data, and authenticate signatures; and develop a mobile app for campus communications.

This investment will benefit thousands of current and incoming undergraduate students.

“Hampton University appreciates this generous donation from Virginia Natural Gas and Southern Company,” said Dr. William R. Harvey, president of Hampton University. “These funds will further enhance Hampton University’s commitment to employing advanced technological tools to our students and faculty especially during these unprecedented times where virtual learning is key.”

Virginia Natural Gas and Southern Company are honored to be part of a growing group of corporate and philanthropic partners who have increased support for HBCUs in the wake of the pandemic and mounting calls for racial equality. Both businesses believe deeply in the importance of HBCUs in higher education and in their impact on economic development, innovation and American life.

“Our hope is that this funding will draw further recognition to schools like Hampton University and deepen partnerships between business and civic leaders and these vital institutions,” said Robert Duvall, president of Virginia Natural Gas. “HBCUs are at the forefront of innovation and academic excellence in the United States, and we hope our company’s investment will only accelerate this important work.”

Founded in 1868 as Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute, Hampton University is a private university located in the heart of downtown Hampton. Steeped in tradition, Hampton University is one of the top historically Black universities in the world, offering a broad range of technical, liberal arts and graduate degree programs to more than 4,200 students. The university has been ranked in the top 20% of engineering schools in the country, the third Best Architecture School in the state, and the first proton therapy cancer treatment center in Virginia. Virginia Natural Gas and Southern Company are committed to the success of HBCUs and fostering greater diversity and inclusion across the communities they serve. Among the 21 HBCUs awarded grants, two institutions are in Virginia. Norfolk State University also received a grant for $220,000 for software to support the implementation of the Ellucian Colleague Student Planning Application which will improve registration, teaching, and advising processes for students.

For more information, please visit www.virginianaturalgas.com.
Hampton University Health Center hosted a free flu vaccine clinic this month for HU students, faculty and staff with valid identification and insurance. Faculty, staff and students from the HUSOP and Health Center administered the shots from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on November 11, 2020. Facial coverings were required.

“We are proud to see that the Hampton University School of Pharmacy and our Health Center have teamed up to host a free flu shot clinic right here on campus. It is so important to take care of your health, especially during the times we are living in today,” said Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey.

The flu is a contagious respiratory illness caused by the influenza virus that can infect the nose, throat, and sometimes the lungs. It can cause mild to severe illness, and at times can lead to death. The best way to prevent getting the flu is by getting a flu vaccine each year, which stimulates your body’s immune system to make antibodies attack the flu virus.

“Hampton University School of Pharmacy and Health Center Team up to Host Flu Shot Clinic

It’s important to get your flu shot every year. Simply to prevent unnecessary illnesses, missed work time and missed school time. The flu season this year is especially important because the country is battling with COVID-19 and we do not need unnecessary hospitalizations due to flu,” said HUSOP Assistant Professor and Coordinator of the Flu Shot Clinic, Dr. Deborah Hudson. “The flu kills thousands of people in the U.S. every year. The very young, the elderly, and those with underlying conditions are most vulnerable, coupled with COVID makes it more important than ever from a public health perspective.”

This is the second free flu shot clinic hosted by the HUSOP and the health center this semester. During the first flu shot clinic, fifty-one participants were immunized. Since 2007, over 2,000 participants have been immunized by the Hampton University flu shot clinic.

Tips to stay healthy during flu season:

• Wash your hands with soap and water after coughing, sneezing, and opening doors. Use alcohol-based hand cleaner when you do not have soap and water.

• Cover your nose and mouth while coughing and sneezing with a tissue or in your sleeve.

• Limit the touching of your nose, eyes, and mouth when you are coughing and sneezing.

• Remain at home from school or work if you are sick and limit contact with others to avoid spreading the virus.

• Talk with your health care provider about the seasonal flu vaccine.

“I’m currently on my pharmacy rotation. I am here at the flu shot clinic to help with registration in regards to the flu clinic,” said HUSOP student, Jzalyn Green. “With COVID and everything going on right now, it is important to have your vaccinations, especially your flu shot. I feel like it’s important to have flu clinics in the community and to make this option available for those on campus.”

Fun Facts:

Williams enjoys traveling, cooking and helping others with personal finance in her free time. She was a White House HBCU Ambassador, a member of National Association of Black Accountants, and Senior Class Vice President.

Hampton University alumna, Ashleigh Williams, was recognized as a member of For(bes) The Culture, a network of diverse professionals breaking barriers in a variety of industries.

“We are never surprised by the outstanding accomplishments of our students and alumni. Ms. Ashleigh Williams continues to display her character well after graduation. She is a great example of how our students let their lives do the singing,” said Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey.

Williams is a 2018 graduate of the Hampton University School of Business where she earned her BS in Business Administration. During her tenure at Hampton, she interned with Goldman Sachs, KPMG and the United States Securities and Exchange Commission.

Following graduation, Williams moved to the west coast to begin a career in technology. She is a Business Development Manager, where she leads strategic partnerships in some of the leading industries invested in by Microsoft.

As a For(bes) The Culture member, Williams has access to an extensive network and mentorship opportunities with like-minded individuals. The mission of For(bes) The Culture is to create equitable pathways for black and brown professionals.

For(bes) The Culture is viewed as a hub for elite leaders of color who are breaking down barriers and impacting culture globally to connect, collaborate and change. For(bes) The Culture provides a platform that fosters professional development, social consciousness, civic engagement, intrapreneurship and entrepreneurship through community service projects, social and cultural outings, personal and professional workshops, etc.

“I am deeply honored to be a part of this dynamic group of thought leaders. I truly believe that the members of For(bes) The Culture are the individuals that will help shape culture and influence decisions for years to come. I plan to use this platform to amplify diverse voices and I am excited to grow professionally alongside these leaders,” said Williams.

For(bes) THE CULTURE

Hampton University Alum Recognized as a Member of For(bes) the Culture

Hampton University alumna, Ashleigh Williams, was recognized as a member of For(bes) The Culture, a network of diverse professionals breaking barriers in a variety of industries.

“The Hampton University School of Pharmacy (HUSOP) and the Hampton University Health Center hosted a free flu vaccine clinic this month for HU students, faculty and staff with valid identification and insurance. Faculty, staff and students from the HUSOP and Health Center administered the shots from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on November 11, 2020. Facial coverings were required.

“We are proud to see that the Hampton University School of Pharmacy and our Health Center have teamed up to host a flu shot clinic right here on campus. It is so important to take care of your health, especially during the times we are living in today,” said Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey.

Williams is a 2018 graduate of the Hampton University School of Business where she earned her BS in Business Administration. During her tenure at Hampton, she interned with Goldman Sachs, KPMG and the United States Securities and Exchange Commission.

Following graduation, Williams moved to the west coast to begin a career in technology. She is a Business Development Manager, where she leads strategic partnerships in some of the leading industries invested in by Microsoft.

As a For(bes) The Culture member, Williams has access to an extensive network and mentorship opportunities with like-minded individuals. The mission of For(bes) The Culture is to create equitable pathways for black and brown professionals.

For(bes) The Culture is viewed as a hub for elite leaders of color who are breaking down barriers and impacting culture globally to connect, collaborate and change. For(bes) The Culture provides a platform that fosters professional development, social consciousness, civic engagement, intrapreneurship and entrepreneurship through community service projects, social and cultural outings, personal and professional workshops, etc.

“I am deeply honored to be a part of this dynamic group of thought leaders. I truly believe that the members of For(bes) The Culture are the individuals that will help shape culture and influence decisions for years to come. I plan to use this platform to amplify diverse voices and I am excited to grow professionally alongside these leaders,” said Williams.

Fun Facts:

Williams enjoys traveling, cooking and helping others with personal finance in her free time. She was a White House HBCU Ambassador, a member of National Association of Black Accountants, and Senior Class Vice President.

Hampton University School of Pharmacy and Health Center Team up to Host Flu Shot Clinic

The Hampton University School of Pharmacy (HUSOP) and the Hampton University Health Center hosted a free flu vaccine clinic this month for HU students, faculty and staff with valid identification and insurance. Faculty, staff and students from the HUSOP and Health Center administered the shots from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on November 11, 2020. Facial coverings were required.

“We are proud to see that the Hampton University School of Pharmacy and our Health Center have teamed up to host a flu shot clinic right here on campus. It is so important to take care of your health, especially during the times we are living in today,” said Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey.

The flu is a contagious respiratory illness caused by the influenza virus that can infect the nose, throat, and sometimes the lungs. It can cause mild to severe illness, and at times can lead to death. The best way to prevent getting the flu is by getting a flu vaccine each year, which stimulates your body’s immune system to make antibodies attack the flu virus.

“It’s important to get your flu shot every year. Simply to prevent unnecessary illnesses, missed work time and missed school time. The flu season this year is especially important because the country is battling with COVID-19 and we do not need unnecessary hospitalizations due to flu,” said HUSOP Assistant Professor and Coordinator of the Flu Shot Clinic, Dr. Deborah Hudson. “The flu kills thousands of people in the U.S. every year. The very young, the elderly, and those with underlying conditions are most vulnerable, coupled with COVID makes it more important than ever from a public health perspective.”

This is the second free flu shot clinic hosted by the HUSOP and the health center this semester. During the first flu shot clinic, fifty-one participants were immunized. Since 2007, over 2,000 participants have been immunized by the Hampton University flu shot clinic.

Tips to stay healthy during flu season:

• Wash your hands with soap and water after coughing, sneezing, and opening doors. Use alcohol-based hand cleaner when you do not have soap and water.

• Cover your nose and mouth while coughing and sneezing with a tissue or in your sleeve.

• Limit the touching of your nose, eyes, and mouth when you are coughing and sneezing.

• Remain at home from school or work if you are sick and limit contact with others to avoid spreading the virus.

• Talk with your health care provider about the seasonal flu vaccine.

“I’m currently on my pharmacy rotation. I am here at the flu shot clinic to help with registration in regards to the flu clinic,” said HUSOP student, Jzalyn Green. “With COVID and everything going on right now, it is important to have your vaccinations, especially your flu shot. I feel like it’s important to have flu clinics in the community and to make this option available for those on campus.”

Fun Facts:

Williams enjoys traveling, cooking and helping others with personal finance in her free time. She was a White House HBCU Ambassador, a member of National Association of Black Accountants, and Senior Class Vice President.
Hampton Life (Vol. 12 Issue 10)

Contributors:
Matthew White, Glenn Knight,
B. Da’Vida Plummer,
Jessica Zimmerman, Alexis Brower

The WRHLI Host their Last Meet The Leaders Lecture Series of the Semester with Representatives from PepsiCo and Frito Lay

On Friday, November 6, 2020, the William R. Harvey Leadership Institute (WRHLI) held its last Virtual Meet the Leaders Lecture Series of the semester welcoming Hampton University Alum who serve as leaders for PepsiCo and Frito Lay. This was the first time the WRHLI held their Meet the Leaders Lecture Series as a virtual panel discussion.

“The William R. Harvey Leadership Institute Meet the Leaders Lecture Series is a great opportunity for students to learn from individuals who are successful in the professional world. Students are able to pick the brains of Hampton University alumni who embody success, and from other individuals who are making a difference in their field,” said Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey.

Due to COVID-19, the Meet the Leaders Lecture Series had to occur virtually via Zoom Meetings. Hampton University Alum and PepsiCo/Frito Lay representatives Juwan Jones, Keirsten Hoyle, Daniel Gourdin, Brandon Miller and Tommy Adams spoke to the Leaders of the WRHLI.

During the panel discussion, many topics were discussed, offering advice about beginning a professional career following the undergraduate experience and the panelists shared experiences from their tenure at Hampton University.

“The four or five years you spend in undergraduate will be the best time of your life. If I could go back, I would. You want to take away as much as you can as a student and personally from your college experience. Also, take the time to extend yourself outside of your core responsibilities as a student. As you progress throughout the corporate world, they do look at your work, but they also look to see how far you have extended yourself outside of what you do on a day to day basis,” said Zone Sales Director for Frito Lay, Daniel Gourdin.

“The biggest thing I would suggest while at Hampton is not getting caught up in just one clique. Diversify yourself with who you’re hanging out with and who you’re getting to know. Everyone has a different walk of life as far as where they come from and as you transition into the real world, you’re going to be dealing with a wide range of folks. In the Gatorade family, it’s about teamwork and being able to collaborate cross-functionally. One thing I benefitted from at Hampton is instead of hanging out with one group, get to know others outside of your main circle,” said Head of Sport Specialty for Gatorade Sporting Goods, Tommy Adams.

“One thing I learned from Hampton is hard work. The work ethic I learned has stuck with me today. All of the hard work that goes into the curriculum at Hampton and all of the details have shaped and molded me into the leader I am today. It may be hard to understand the challenges you face during undergraduate, but it pays off and will be an asset to your professional career,” said Sales Associate for PepsiCo, Keirsten Hoyle.

“The WRHLI Meet the Leaders Series is an opportunity for the WRHLI Leadership Fellows to interact and engage in critical analysis and thinking with guest speakers.

“The Hampton University alumni provided the Leadership Fellows with indelible memories, truths, and wisdom that began at Our Home By the Sea and stayed with them during their journey as members of corporate America. This was our first time ever conducting a panel dialogue for the Meet The Leaders Lecture Series and it was an amazing experience for all in attendance. What I value the most about our Lecture Series is the Fireside Chat that occurs after the formal program. This is an opportunity for the Leadership Fellows to have the "real grown folk" conversation with our guest(s). All five of the panel members stayed an extra hour and answered additional questions and shared in greater breadth and depth detail of their vignettes. Additionally, each alumni has agreed to serve as a mentor for the Leadership Institute and this a vision of mine to have a corporate sponsor such as PepsiCo and Frito-Lay to sponsor and partner with the William R. Harvey Leadership Institute for years to come,” said Dr. Jarris Louis Taylor, Jr., Director of the William R. Harvey Leadership Institute.

The southeast region of Newport News is also designated as a ‘food desert,’ which translates to poor access to fresh food. That, as well as barriers to accessing healthcare including transportation issues and fear of contracting COVID-19, may also further compromise their health statuses,” said Gibson.

Lundy worked with volunteer faculty from the Hampton University School of Nursing to administer 60 flu shots, provided by Sentara Leigh Hospital, to Forrest Pines residents on Monday, November 23, 2020. She and Gibson are also coordinating an opportunity for Sentara Medical Group nurses to administer 30 Shingrix vaccines in the near future. The Shingrix vaccine, which is being provided by Sentara Careplex Hospital, requires two doses given two to six months apart.

“We are glad to have community partners like Hampton University School of Nursing & Gerontology Center who can help us reach the communities that need us most,” Lundy said.

Sentara Healthcare and the Hampton University School of Nursing & Gerontology Center are working together to provide free, preventative flu and shingles vaccines to residents of Forrest Pines Senior, a senior independent living community in Newport News, Va.

“Hampton University is always excited to partner with Sentara Healthcare to serve the Commonwealth and the community. These very important vaccines will help to ensure older adults receive the necessary care to stay healthy, especially during these uncertain times,” said Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey.

Dr. Ethelyn Gibson, Associate Professor in the School of Nursing and Director for the Hampton University Gerontology Center for Excellence, reached out to Iris Lundy, Director of Health Equity for Sentara Healthcare, to ask about providing flu shots and the Shingrix vaccine to some of the community’s 123 residents. The initial request came from the building manager, who was concerned about residents’ increased vulnerability to COVID-19 from preventable viruses.

“The goal of this community outreach effort is to avoid a possible outbreak of a preventable virus that could easily spread to others in their living community. Many older adults are medically vulnerable and at increased risk of developing deadly health complications from both shingles and the flu,” said Lundy. “These community prevention measures are especially important during the COVID-19 pandemic.”

Many older adults in the southeast area of Newport News live below the federal poverty line, have other multiple health conditions such as type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular health issues, and cannot easily access the health services and resources they need to live healthy lives.

The four or five years you spend in undergraduate will be the best time of your life. If I could go back, I would. You want to take away as much as you can as a student and personally from your college experience. Also, take the time to extend yourself outside of your core responsibilities as a student. As you progress throughout the corporate world, they do look at your work, but they also look to see how far you have extended yourself outside of what you do on a day to day basis,” said Zone Sales Director for Frito Lay, Daniel Gourdin.

“The biggest thing I would suggest while at Hampton is not getting caught up in just one clique. Diversify yourself with who you’re hanging out with and who you’re getting to know. Everyone has a different walk of life as far as where they come from and as you transition into the real world, you’re going to be dealing with a wide range of folks. In the Gatorade family, it’s about teamwork and being able to collaborate cross-functionally. One thing I benefitted from at Hampton is instead of hanging out with one group, get to know others outside of your main circle,” said Head of Sport Specialty for Gatorade Sporting Goods, Tommy Adams.

“One thing I learned from Hampton is hard work. The work ethic I learned has stuck with me today. All of the hard work that goes into the curriculum at Hampton and all of the details have shaped and molded me into the leader I am today. It may be hard to understand the challenges you face during undergraduate, but it pays off and will be an asset to your professional career,” said Sales Associate for PepsiCo, Keirsten Hoyle.

“The WRHLI Meet the Leaders Series is an opportunity for the WRHLI Leadership Fellows to interact and engage in critical analysis and thinking with guest speakers.

“The Hampton University alumni provided the Leadership Fellows with indelible memories, truths, and wisdom that began at Our Home By the Sea and stayed with them during their journey as members of corporate America. This was our first time ever conducting a panel dialogue for the Meet The Leaders Lecture Series and it was an amazing experience for all in attendance. What I value the most about our Lecture Series is the Fireside Chat that occurs after the formal program. This is an opportunity for the Leadership Fellows to have the "real grown folk" conversation with our guest(s). All five of the panel members stayed an extra hour and answered additional questions and shared in greater breadth and depth detail of their vignettes. Additionally, each alumni has agreed to serve as a mentor for the Leadership Institute and this a vision of mine to have a corporate sponsor such as PepsiCo and Frito-Lay to sponsor and partner with the William R. Harvey Leadership Institute for years to come,” said Dr. Jarris Louis Taylor, Jr., Director of the William R. Harvey Leadership Institute.

Sentara Healthcare and the Hampton University School of Nursing & Gerontology Center are working together to provide free, preventative flu and shingles vaccines to residents of Forrest Pines Senior, a senior independent living community in Newport News, Va.

“Hampton University is always excited to partner with Sentara Healthcare to serve the Commonwealth and the community. These very important vaccines will help to ensure older adults receive the necessary care to stay healthy, especially during these uncertain times,” said Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey.

Dr. Ethelyn Gibson, Associate Professor in the School of Nursing and Director for the Hampton University Gerontology Center for Excellence, reached out to Iris Lundy, Director of Health Equity for Sentara Healthcare, to ask about providing flu shots and the Shingrix vaccine to some of the community’s 123 residents. The initial request came from the building manager, who was concerned about residents’ increased vulnerability to COVID-19 from preventable viruses.

“The goal of this community outreach effort is to avoid a possible outbreak of a preventable virus that could easily spread to others in their living community. Many older adults are medically vulnerable and at increased risk of developing deadly health complications from both shingles and the flu,” said Lundy. “These community prevention measures are especially important during the COVID-19 pandemic.”

Many older adults in the southeast area of Newport News live below the federal poverty line, have other multiple health conditions such as type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular health issues, and cannot easily access the health services and resources they need to live healthy lives.

The four or five years you spend in undergraduate will be the best time of your life. If I could go back, I would. You want to take away as much as you can as a student and personally from your college experience. Also, take the time to extend yourself outside of your core responsibilities as a student. As you progress throughout the corporate world, they do look at your work, but they also look to see how far you have extended yourself outside of what you do on a day to day basis,” said Zone Sales Director for Frito Lay, Daniel Gourdin.

“The biggest thing I would suggest while at Hampton is not getting caught up in just one clique. Diversify yourself with who you’re hanging out with and who you’re getting to know. Everyone has a different walk of life as far as where they come from and as you transition into the real world, you’re going to be dealing with a wide range of folks. In the Gatorade family, it’s about teamwork and being able to collaborate cross-functionally. One thing I benefitted from at Hampton is instead of hanging out with one group, get to know others outside of your main circle,” said Head of Sport Specialty for Gatorade Sporting Goods, Tommy Adams.

“One thing I learned from Hampton is hard work. The work ethic I learned has stuck with me today. All of the hard work that goes into the curriculum at Hampton and all of the details have shaped and molded me into the leader I am today. It may be hard to understand the challenges you face during undergraduate, but it pays off and will be an asset to your professional career,” said Sales Associate for PepsiCo, Keirsten Hoyle.

“The WRHLI Meet the Leaders Series is an opportunity for the WRHLI Leadership Fellows to interact and engage in critical analysis and thinking with guest speakers.

“The Hampton University alumni provided the Leadership Fellows with indelible memories, truths, and wisdom that began at Our Home By the Sea and stayed with them during their journey as members of corporate America. This was our first time ever conducting a panel dialogue for the Meet The Leaders Lecture Series and it was an amazing experience for all in attendance. What I value the most about our Lecture Series is the Fireside Chat that occurs after the formal program. This is an opportunity for the Leadership Fellows to have the "real grown folk" conversation with our guest(s). All five of the panel members stayed an extra hour and answered additional questions and shared in greater breadth and depth detail of their vignettes. Additionally, each alumni has agreed to serve as a mentor for the Leadership Institute and this a vision of mine to have a corporate sponsor such as PepsiCo and Frito-Lay to sponsor and partner with the William R. Harvey Leadership Institute for years to come,” said Dr. Jarris Louis Taylor, Jr., Director of the William R. Harvey Leadership Institute.