

**THE LORETTA M. WILLIAMS
UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AWARD**

The purpose of the Loretta M. Williams Undergraduate Research Award is to support undergraduate student scholarship that is related to women's health and wellness. Students will apply to collaborate on a project that is currently underway at the Center for Women's Health and Wellness (CWHW)[see below]. The recipients of the award will be undergraduate students from any department in the School of Health and Human Performance. The funds may be used to support any aspect of the project including but not limited to: student investigator or participant compensation, supplies, or laboratory space.

Proposals are to be written by the student. Proposals are to be submitted by the student as an independent investigator/choreographer working in collaboration with the CWHW director and/or affiliated faculty member. At the conclusion of the project the student will prepare and submit to the CWHW a written report or other equivalent documentation (i.e., videotape) describing the project and outcomes. The student will also be expected to attend the Honor's banquet and may present findings at a public form, to be determined in collaboration the CWHW director.

The mission of the Center for Women's Health and Wellness (CWHW) is to advance the health and wellness of all women through collaborative research and educational programs. The Center has a strong emphasis on the promotion of positive health, quality of life and sense of well-being for girls and women of all ages, from all backgrounds and communities. The Center has the following goals:

- Advance the health and wellbeing of women by developing an interdisciplinary collaborative research and scholarship program.
- Advance women's health and wellness by connecting research to practice.

Students will submit an application to work on one of the projects listed below:

PLEASE NOTE: YOU MUST CONTACT THE PROFESSOR ASSIGNED TO EACH PROJECT AND RECEIVE A LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM THAT PERSON AS PART OF YOUR APPLICATION

- 1. Can we promote breastfeeding in public spaces?** The goal of this project is to promote public support for breastfeeding “in public spaces” around the UNCG campus. Working with Dr. Paige Smith, CWHW director, the student will take the lead on developing and evaluating an intervention strategy to encourage businesses (e.g., restaurants, coffee shops) around UNCG campus to advertise publically that “breastfeeding mothers are welcome here”. Students will be expected to develop an intervention and evaluation plan and to implement the plan. Paige Smith, Director of CWHW, will serve as faculty sponsor for this project. The student will develop a poster on this study for presentation at the 5th Breastfeeding and Feminism Symposium to be held in March at UNCG. ***Students interested applying to work on this project will need to meet with Dr. Smith and include a letter of support from her in the application.***
- 2. How do we improve physical activity programs for girls who are physically challenged?** The student working on this project would collaborate with Dr. Leandra Bedini, Professor in Recreation, Tourism and Hospitality Management and Bridge II Sports, a statewide advocacy group that seeks to create opportunities for children and adults who are physically challenged to play team and individual sports. Together you will design and implement a questionnaire for participants attending the 2nd Annual Girls and Sport Symposium (February 2010) to assess their awareness, knowledge, and attitude toward sports and physical activities for girls with physical disabilities. Findings from this study will help us better understand how we can start to improve practice in this area. ***Students interested in applying to work on this project will need to meet with Dr. Leandra Bedini and include a letter of support from her in the application.***
- 3. How do women coaches do that!?** Students interested in how high school, female coaches balance their multiple roles, while they are in-season, are ideal candidates for this project. Under the direction of Dr. Donna Duffy, the undergraduate assigned to this project will assist two graduate students with data collection through multiple focus group interviews with women coaches. Focus groups will be held in the triad region, the Chapel Hill/Raleigh-Durham area, as well as Charlotte, NC. It is likely that the student assigned to this project may travel to assist with the interviews if it is conducive to her/his schedule. Once the data has been collected and transcribed, the student will then assist Dr. Duffy and the two graduate students with data analysis (coding, etc). We anticipate disseminating our preliminary findings at the Second Annual Girls in Sport Symposium held at UNCG in February 2010. Therefore, it is likely that the undergraduate assigned to work on this project will be able to add a professional presentation to their vita/resume. ***Students interested applying to work on***

this project will need to meet with Dr. Duffy and include a letter of support from her in the application.

4. **HIV Stigma Perceptions among African Immigrant Women** . The purpose of this formative research is to adapt an existing HIV/AIDS Stigma assessment tool for pilot testing with French-speaking African immigrant women. The focus is on French-speaking African immigrants as they currently constitute a large percent of the new immigrant population relocating to the region. Our guiding questions are, What is the nature and extent of HIV-related stigma among French-speaking African communities? and What role does stigma play in HIV testing decisions among women who are part of these communities? We will collaborate with key staff and interpreters associated with The NC African Services Coalition, and local immigrant community “helpers” to refine and adapt the assessment tool and its administration in a manner that is congruent with the language, communication style, and cultural norms for expressing opinions and ideas among French-speaking African immigrant women. We will pilot test the resultant tool with a sample of the French-speaking African immigrant women who reside in 3 housing complexes in Greensboro. Adjustments/modifications will be made based on the results and a final feedback/report with recommendations will be made to NC African Services Coalition's HIV Outreach Program. Students will be expected to participate in the assessment tool development and administration, as well as analysis of data derived from the assessment. Students are welcome to develop their own research questions using based on the assessment data. Dr. Sharon Morrison will serve as faculty sponsor for this project. ***Students interested applying to work on this project will need to meet with Dr. Morrison and include a letter of support from her in the application .***

Application Process

To apply please complete the following and submit your completed application in hardcopy to Kathleen Williams, Associate Dean for Academic Programs. Applications are due SEPTEMBER 14.

- 1) **Cover Page**
- 2) **A two-three page, double spaced, narrative that includes the following:**
 - a) The project you have selected and why you selected it. Please describe why this project is important to you and how you believe you will benefit from it.
 - b) What skills, expertise, background and/or knowledge you bring to the project.
 - c) Your initial ideas about a research/creative plan for the project.
 - d) How you think women will benefit from the proposed project.
- 3) **Letter from faculty sponsor** that describes:
 - a) how the student will likely benefit from the project,

- b) the level and type of supervision the student will receive,
- c) the degree of independence the student is expected to show or develop, and
- d) how the Center for Women's Health and Wellness will benefit from this research, and how the faculty sponsor's research (if applicable) will benefit from this project.

4) UNC Geni Transcript from UNCG if you are not a freshman; if you are a freshman submit a transcript from your senior year in high school.

The following criteria will be used to determine the quality of the proposal:

- 1) Benefit to student
- 2) Quality of the proposal
- 3) Benefit to women's health
- 4) Benefit to CWHW and/or affiliated faculty

Recipients of the Loretta M. Williams Undergraduate Research Award are obligated to:

- 1) Complete and file a written report of their completed project with the Center for Women's Health and Wellness in the School of Health and Human Performance within one (1) year of the date of the award. For more information on submitting a written report, contact Dr. Paige Hall Smith, Director, and Center for Women's Health and Wellness @ 334-4736 or at phsmith@uncg.edu.
- 2) Student may have other obligations that result from receiving a scholarship in the School of Health and Human Performance.

Amount of award: \$1000

DEADLINE FOR FALL-SPRING (2009-2010: September 14^h 2009)