



**The Health Disparities Service-Learning Collaborative**  
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**HDSLCL Teleconference Call #11**  
**SUPPORTING COMMUNITY ENGAGED FACULTY**

**12/9/08**

**Presenters:** *Lynn Blanchard*, faculty in the Department of Health Behavior and Health Education at University of North Carolina (UNC) Gillings School of Global Public Health and *Mrs. Lucille Webb*, from Strengthening the Black Family, Inc. They shared their experience with UNC's Faculty Engaged Scholars program.

**Faculty Engaged Scholars Program at UNC**

The Faculty Engaged Scholars Program is a 2-year faculty training initiative of the Carolina Center for Public Service and the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Public Service and Engagement. The Program is open to faculty campus wide and has attracted scholars from diverse disciplines - including journalism, public health, medicine, nursing, law, and computer sciences - since beginning in 2007. More information about the Faculty Engaged Scholar's Program is available at <http://www.unc.edu/cps/faculty-engaged-scholars.php>.

Several key factors contributing to the Faculty Engaged Scholars Program's success. First, the program offers not only training but also funding for faculty. Second, the program is promoted as competitive, and indeed it is with over 20 applicants per year for less than 10 slots. The competitiveness generates program prestige. Third, the program is tailored to meet individual faculty needs. "Meeting faculty where they are" builds on existing research and teaching portfolios rather than placing additional expectations on already stretched faculty. Fourth, Mrs. Webb's role as community co-director provides consistent, ongoing interaction, which scholars report has been essential in developing their community focus. Fifth, the interdisciplinary nature of the program enables faculty to foster relationships with other faculty across campus. Sixth, the Carolina Center for Public Service provides a strong foundation for innovative efforts like the Faculty Engaged Scholars Program.

**Additional Ways to Support Community Engaged Faculty**

- **Student Interest** – Graduate students can be an impetus faculty engagement
- **Recognition** – Awards for community engagement; Carnegie Certification of Engagement
- **Funding** – CBPR grants can tap key public health faculty, including biostatisticians and epidemiologists; private donors are a source of support for community engagement
- **Gatherings** – Don't underestimate the power of networking opportunities (e.g., brown bags, community/faculty dinners, faculty retreats, bus tours to visit communities) for building interest and connections around community engagement