



## Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR) Partnership Academy

Annette Aalborg, DrPH, Professor & Chair of Community Health, TUC Public Health Program and Mark Mora, Director of Community Engagement and Interim Director of Fighting-Back Partnership Vallejo were selected in a competitive process to participate in the NIH funded Community Based Research (CBPR) Partnership Academy held in Michigan from July 16 – 21 of this year.

Funded by the National Institutes of Health, the CBPR Partnership Academy is a multi-faceted training and mentoring program designed for community-academic partnerships that demonstrated commitment and leadership in

engaging in a CBPR approach to eliminate health inequities in their communities.

Today's complex public health problems demand a collaborative, engaged research approach, whereby those most impacted by health inequities have a genuine "voice" in pursuing solutions. Community-based participatory research (CBPR) is widely recognized as an effective approach for understanding and addressing health inequities—and for giving communities an equitable stake in the process of doing so. As opportunities to use a CBPR approach increase, so does the need for enhanced skills and knowledge to conduct effective CBPR. To this end, the Detroit Urban Research Center has established the CBPR Partnership Academy.

A total of 12, two-person teams were selected for the CBPR Partnership Academy through a competitive review process. Those selected for the Partnership Academy work in pairs of one community member and one academic researcher.

Teams who participate in the Academy come away with enhanced capabilities, knowledge, and skills for creating, implementing, and maintaining a successful CBPR partnership using innovative methods in the behavioral and social sciences to make a positive difference in the health and well-being of their local populations.

Over the past two years, 24 teams from across 13 states and two tribal nations have participated in the Academy. Program evaluation results show that, as of the end of 2016, cohort one participants had submitted 11 CBPR-related grant proposals following their participation in the Academy, 10 of which received funding. Eight participants also carried out trainings and workshops related to CBPR; more than half of the teams have disseminated their partnership's work to community audiences; and eight academic participants are incorporating CBPR into their teaching on a regular basis. To date, two-thirds of Academy participants have been people of color.

