

You are cordially invited to attend

**Wednesday, February 27, 2019**

**12:00 - 1:30 pm**

CREATE for STEM Institute (115 Erickson Hall)

Michigan State University

(Light refreshments provided)

## **Health in Our Hands**

### **A community-based approach to teaching and learning science**

**HiOH Team (CREATE for STEM Institute)**

Idit Adler, Ph.D., Consuelo Morales, MPH, Ph.D., Renee Bayer, MHSA

#### **Abstract:**

Research shows that students' interest, motivation and excitement of learning science declines over the course of their education. This decline corresponds with a poor understanding of core scientific ideas, low achievements on national and international testing, and a persistent achievement gap among students of diverse social-economic background. One reason for this decline is that learners perceive science and science education as 'irrelevant' both for themselves and for society. To tackle these issues, we developed *Health in Our Hands* (HiOH), a middle school science curriculum that focuses on disciplinary core idea of gene-environment interactions and their effect on health issues that impact students and their families—diabetes and addiction. In our talk, we will describe the design principles of HiOH, which include: (a) A community-based participatory approach to curriculum development and enactment; (b) Focus on developing students' conceptual understanding through project-based and 3-dimensional learning; and (c) Community action inquiry projects in which students examine local health-related issues in their community to support social action through a scientific understanding. We will demonstrate how HiOH provides opportunities for all students, with particular focus on non-dominant students, to learn science in a meaningful way.

**Idit Adler, Ph.D.** in science education, is the curriculum lead for Health in Our Hands. She is a research associate at CREATE for STEM Institute.

**Consuelo J. Morales, MPH, Ph.D.** in science education, is the professional development lead for Health in Our Hands. She is a former middle and high school science teacher. She is a research associate at CREATE for STEM Institute.

**Renee Bayer, MHSA** in public health, is the Health in Our Hands project manager. She is the associate director for engagement at CREATE for STEM Institute.



Instagram: @health\_in\_our\_hands

Twitter: @health\_io\_hands

Facebook: @HiOHproject

Website: <https://create4stem.msu.edu/project/misepa>



This presentation is part of the **CREATE Seminar Series**

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