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.

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