Welcome to Campus Weekly

Updated COVID-19 dashboard and quarantine vs. isolation info

Effective today, UNCG will update our COVID-19 dashboard. Changes include:

- Providing separate reporting on student, faculty, staff, and contractor cases
- Adding reporting on the availability of rooms on campus for quarantine and isolation.
- For more information on Quarantine vs. Isolation view this flyer.
- Adding reporting on clusters, should they be identified on campus
- Increasing frequency of reporting to update daily during the week (Monday-Friday)

Our goal is to continue to provide up-to-date information to our community and keep our campus informed as the COVID-19 situation evolves.

As stated on Friday, August 21, UNCG is continuing operations as previously outlined. UNC
System President Peter Hans has made it clear that operational decisions will be made discretely at each campus based on collaborative discussions between the campus, the UNC System office, and public health officials. **If data, including metrics like multiple clusters, indicates we should change plans and move instruction to an online-only environment, or make other operational or academic adjustments, we will do so without hesitation and communicate quickly.**

It is important to note that an increase in cases does not necessarily indicate the presence of a cluster. A “cluster” is defined by the [North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services](https://www.ncdhhs.gov) as five or more cases that are deemed close in location. “Location” is defined as a single residential hall or dwelling. Clusters also tend to involve a level of close contact between impacted individuals and traceable to a single index case (per Guilford County definition). **As of our update on 8/26/20 there have been no identified clusters on UNCG campus.**

We do have cases in various populations around our campus, and we recognize that there will be discussion of these among our employees and students and on social media. We have an active, thorough contact tracing process and are in regular contact with county health officials as needed. We will not provide individual details on any case in adherence to [FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act)](https://www.ed.gov/policy/family的权利) and [HIPPA (Health Information Portability and Accountability Act)](https://www.hhs.gov) regulations.

We have a wide range of contingency plans in place to maintain academic continuity and ensure that our students all have a safe place to live. As we have come to learn, conditions change rapidly. It is imperative that we all remain committed to the [community standards](https://www.campusweekly.org) that are now in place regarding face coverings, social distancing, hygiene, gatherings, caring for each other, and other measures designed to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Please stay informed by visiting our [COVID-19 website](https://www.campusweekly.org), [dashboard](https://www.campusweekly.org), and monitoring email, social media, and other channels for the latest information. Thank you.

**Major grants mark 50 years of student support**
It has been a banner summer, fifty years in the making, for student-support grants on the UNCG campus. In early August, the U.S. Department of Education renewed UNCG’s TRiO Student Support Services Program grant, awarding $1.4 million over five years. 2020 marks the 50th anniversary of this program on our campus.

At the same time, the UNCG TriO team, housed in the Division of Student Success, was also awarded a new $1.6 million SSS STEM Health (SSS STEM-H) grant. Both grants support students from low-income, first-generation, or under-represented minority backgrounds, as well as students with disabilities. Students in these programs receive supplemental academic support, including tutoring, advising, and skills development. The SSS STEM-H grant was developed in collaboration with STEM faculty and departments campus-wide.

The Division of Student Success is also adding the Department of Education’s Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) to its growing list of opportunities for students, via a $76,000 grant awarded in August. A new GEAR UP Coordinator will work closely with first-year students who graduated from target North Carolina high schools, coaching them on the transition from high school to college, and helping them navigate their first year. Kara Baldwin and her team (Office of TRiO Programs), along with Andrew Hamilton (AVP and Dean of Undergraduate Studies) are leading these three programs.
In a sign of UNCG’s growing profile in supporting students, a team drawn from science units from all around campus was also awarded a $1 million Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (S-STEM) grant from the National Science Foundation. This grant will provide continuing funding for the Science Technology, and Math Preparations Scholarships (STAMPS) program, led by Jeff Patton (GES), Malcolm Schug (Biology), Lee Phillips (URSCO), Ayesha Boyce (OAERS), and Lynn Sametz (GES).

The National Science Foundation has also awarded Maia Popova (Chemistry and Biochemistry) $345,000 over two years to study and improve chemistry instruction at the undergraduate level, especially in the area of learning and communicating with graphic representations.

Taken together, these awards point to UNCG’s growing strength and leadership nationally in supporting teaching, learning, and undergraduate student success, especially for students from backgrounds that are typically underserved in higher education.

*Story by Andrew Hamilton, University Student Success*

*Photography by Martin. W. Kane, University Communications*

**Professor launches undocu-friendly college planning site**

High school counselors serve key roles in the college planning process – they often advise
students on degree options, financial aid, and career pathways.

But some students may not be getting the help they need. Students who are DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program) recipients, are undocumented, or live in mixed-status families often find that college planning is complex and challenging. Many counselors and school staff aren’t equipped with the information and resources they need to understand the impacts of immigration status on college admissions and degree attainment.

In response to this growing community need, UNC Greensboro’s Dr. Laura Gonzalez has launched “So Much Potential,” a new website aimed at educating high school counselors and staff so that they can better support all students on the path to college. The website also serves as a resource for students and families who may not be aware of their options. Some aspects of the website are specific to North Carolina, such as community organizations and local contacts. Other resources are relevant to any student in the United States.

Gonzalez received a 2019-20 North Carolina Campus Compact Fellowship to develop the website. The associate professor of teacher education and higher education, whose research focuses on Latinx immigrant families and college access, spent last year interviewing students, families, school staff, and community advocates about their experiences.

“When I spoke with students, they told me that their counselors often had good intentions, but they didn’t always give advice that was specific and relevant to their situations,” Gonzalez explains.

So Much Potential helps to dispel the many misconceptions about DACA and undocumented students and college. Some assume that students without a social security number (SSN) can’t attend college. However, there are no federal laws prohibiting the admission of undocumented immigrants to U.S. colleges, and schools aren’t required to report undocumented applicants or students to immigration officials. Admissions policies differ from state to state and among institutional types within a state – private, public, two-year, four-year.

Another misconception is that students without a SSN can’t access financial aid. While completion of the FAFSA does require that a student have a SSN, there are private aid sources that do not. Students with DACA status may apply to receive a SSN, and, in turn, have access to more financial aid.

In general, students with DACA tend to have greater access to higher education because of their “lawfully present” status. DACA students can apply to most public institutions; however, this access doesn’t guarantee in-state tuition or access to state financial aid.
In North Carolina, DACA recipients and undocumented students may be admitted to public institutions if they graduated from a North Carolina high school. However, they cannot receive federal or state aid, and they must pay out-of-state tuition. As detailed on the So Much Potential website, each state controls the process through which DACA students apply for college, and state policies vary widely.

Dispelling misinformation and increasing opportunity are key goals of the website. It also offers bilingual college planning resources for school staff, students, and families. But perhaps the most impactful section of the website is the student stories.

“This is a population that can often be treated negatively in the media,” Gonzalez said. “The personal narratives are really important to me because I want people to see these students as individuals who have aspirations and are working really hard against a lot of barriers. I hope these stories will move people’s hearts and motivate them to serve this population more effectively.”

“Jay,” a DACA recipient who earned his associate’s degree and now works as a nurse in North Carolina, shared his story: “I was able to go to school. Now I’m contributing more to the economy – I was able to buy a vehicle, I was able to get a house. I know there are a lot of young people out there who want to go to school, but they just really can’t afford it with the out-of-state tuition problem. And if they can only allow us to go to school, I mean we don’t really ask for much, just let us go to school. We’ll pay for it – I’ve paid for my school. I mean, education changes everything, a career changes everything.”

Ultimately, Gonzalez hopes that, through this website, school staff, students, and families will find the support and the community that they need.

“Counselors, you don’t have to figure it all out by yourselves. Families don’t have to travel this road alone. By pulling together all of these resources into a website, I hope that, as a community, we can help bolster these students and their progress.”

Gonzalez partnered with Code to Dream to design the site in the spring. The website officially launched earlier this month. Learn more at somuchpotential.org.

Story by Alyssa Bedrosian, University Communications
Photography by Grant Evan Gilliard, University Communications

New COVID-19 employee checklist available

A new employee checklist for those who test positive, show symptoms consistent with COVID-19, or who have come into contact with others who have tested positive is available
on our COVID-19 website.

Be sure to also note the latest reporting forms for Self-Reporting, Supervisor Reporting, Contractor and Vendor Reporting, and Incident Complaint forms.

As always, please continue to monitor your email, follow @UNCG on your preferred social media platform, download our UNCG Mobile app (the one with our logo and the blue background) from the Google or iTunes app store, and visit our COVID-19 website frequently for the latest information.

Hear from state and local health, education leaders

The streaming of the Greensboro Chamber of Commerce’s Annual State of the Community, with local, state health and K-12 education leaders speaking, will be available for free for UNCG students, faculty, and staff.

The event will be held virtually on August 26 from noon to 1:30 p.m., and will focus on economic recovery, equity, community health, and education.

The program includes notable speakers: Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Mandy K. Cohen, CEO of Cone Health Terry Akin, Superintendent of Guilford County Schools Sharon L. Contreras, and other speakers on economic recovery and equity and capital.

UNCG videos will be presented during the pre-event period, 11:45 until noon, when the formal program begins.

The program will include the announcement of the winners of the Stanley Frank Economic and Workforce Development Award and the Hubert B. Humphrey, Jr. School Improvement Award.

The link for the event: https://vimeo.com/event/241823
Password: GSOChamber1877

A separate link will be established after the event for the archived recording.

Moss Street begins school year with online learning
Moss Street Partnership School, a collaboration between UNC Greensboro and Rockingham County Schools, began the school year Aug. 17 with virtual instruction.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, online learning will continue for at least the first five weeks. After this initial period, the school plans to open for in-person instruction, with students attending as part of different cohorts.

“All week, MSPS teachers, support staff, students, and families have engaged in online teaching and learning. Students have been introduced to everything from math and reading to dance and social-emotional learning under instruction from their teachers and counselors,” said Tina Chestnut, MSPS principal. “Parents and caretakers have been extremely supportive of online learning this week amid minor instances of technological difficulties. Patience and flexibility have been critical in the overall success of the week.”

The switch to online is just one of several changes for Moss Street. Earlier this month, the K-5 school announced that updated legislation now allows any K-5 student in Rockingham County to attend MSPS. Prior to this year, only Rockingham County students who met specific criteria were eligible to attend. All students at MSPS attend free of charge. Through the partnership with Rockingham County Schools, MSPS students receive breakfast, lunch, and transportation at no cost to their families.

Additionally, MSPS introduced a new staff position: school health coordinator and educator.
Mary Holderness, a UNCG alumna, was hired for the position over the summer. Holderness will coordinate the school’s health program and serve as a liaison for the community. She will also help develop a health center and a new clinical practice site for UNCG undergraduate nursing students to receive hands-on training at MSPS with a focus on school and community health.

Learn more at mossstreet.uncg.edu.

**Students make an impact with annual Service Day**

Nearly 130 UNC Greensboro students spent part of their Saturday serving the Greensboro community as part of the 13th annual Spartan Service Day. Led by the Office of Leadership and Civic Engagement, students participated in community service projects for eight local and national organizations such as Downtown Greenway, Project Linus, Tiny House Community Development, and more.

“Spartan Service Day is a great opportunity for students to be introduced to our community through service,” said Katelyn Bodwell, assistant director of civic engagement. “By introducing them to ways they can support others, we are teaching students self-awareness, collaboration with others towards a common purpose, and so much more to prepare them to be effective members of society.”
Following COVID-19 protocols, service sites were sanitized, participants wore face coverings while remaining six feet apart, and groups were limited in size.

“Quite a few things were done differently this year in order to make sure we took every precaution we could so Spartans could safely serve the community,” said Bodwell. “By putting students into smaller groups, we hope it allowed them to have more honest conversations after the service was completed.”

Students served and discussed the systemic causes of homelessness, environmental issues, and domestic violence, among other societal issues. In addition, many of the organizations involved in Spartan Service Day are juggling a shift to virtual services and increased need from community members. Students were able to support these organizations by picking up trash and gardening, packing face coverings for distribution, making blankets for children, and more. At the end of the day, each group had the opportunity to reflect on their service project with the site leaders and discuss how they were making a difference.

“I believe Spartan Service Day and other opportunities to serve the campus and Greensboro community are important because it is our universal duty to help one another,” said Marlas Whitley, a senior English major who served as a site leader for the Operation Gratitude service project. “As Spartans, it is imperative that civic engagement is continually practiced because that’s our school motto – service. That is what we learn while we are here, and what we carry with us when we graduate. Regardless of what you major in or what you plan to do as a career, service and helping each other and the world is one of the most important things anyone can do.”

*Story by Alexandra McQueen, University Communications
Photography by Martin W. Kane, University Communications*

**New website allows students to reserve study spaces on campus**
StudySpace, a new website for students to reserve study spaces on campus, is now live.

The Division of Student Success resource is ideal for commuter students who are on campus for face-to-face courses, but who may also need private or semi-private space to sign in for synchronous online courses.

Students can access the new StudySpace reservation system at https://studyspace.uncg.edu/ and in the Student Persona on the UNCG Mobile app. A log-in with UNCG credentials is required.

Some of the features include:

- Recommends space by location.
- Lists spaces available between 8 a.m. – 10 p.m.
- Allows students to reserve space in 30-minute increments, up to two days in advance.

Available spaces are currently limited to classrooms that are not in use for a full day, therefore the options available do not reflect spaces that have open times between face-to-face class meetings.
Green Fund invites proposals

The UNCG Green Fund Committee is pleased to invite proposals from UNCG students and employees for efforts that support sustainability initiatives at UNCG. Projects may be for campus infrastructure, sustainability education, research, or professional development that benefits students.

This academic year, to quickly support and empower our campus community's response to the pandemic, the Committee is particularly soliciting and will give special consideration to proposals that address and combat the spread of the current pandemic. Examples of such projects include, but are not limited to: bottle refill stations and automatic sensors for sinks, urinals, light switches, etc. that reduce contact points, and research on the relationship between environmental degradation and its impact on the health of communities. This is just a prioritization, not a limitation. The Committee will still consider projects that address other issues. All projects must still have an element related to sustainability.

Additionally, this academic year, the Committee will allow for proposals of any amount to be submitted at any time (1st of the month deadlines still apply) to fast track projects and move as quickly as possible in our efforts to reduce the spread of the novel coronavirus. However, due to this period of economic uncertainty, the Committee will only consider projects that can be completed within one year of being awarded funding. Applicants are still encouraged to think long term but should be aware they will have to apply for project renewal in FY22.

In 2015, UNCG students elected to allocate a portion of their student activity fees toward environmental stewardship and established the Green Fund. Governed by a committee of students with assistance from faculty and staff experts, the Fund operates as a campus-based grant program. Through the Green Fund, students have invested over $250,000 in 53 projects which have provided numerous research and professional opportunities for students and faculty and save UNCG over $21,000 a year in utility costs.

Please visit the [Green Fund website](#) for more information including submission guidelines, the application form, and an FAQ. For additional questions or to schedule a consultation, please contact the Office of Sustainability: greenfund@uncg.edu

All campus rooms and facilities restricted for internal use only

The University has made the difficult decision to limit the use of UNCG rooms and facilities ordinarily made available to the public through the events and meetings reservations process for internal purposes only for the duration of the fall semester.
Similar decisions have been made by many other colleges and universities both in the UNC System and in Guilford County.

This is necessary in order to promote social distancing, limit density, avoid additional complexity related to contact tracing, conserve both cleaning and Community Protective Equipment supplies for mission-critical activities, and to avoid taxing our housekeeping and facilities staff during an already busy time.

2020 faculty internal research award program call for submissions

The InfoReady Review Submission Portal is now open for the 2020 New and Regular Faculty Internal Research Award Program. The submission deadline is 5 p.m. on October 1, 2020. Copies of the signature page template, budget, justification form, and Google Drive file upload instructions can be found at the InfoReady Review submission portal sites below and on the ORE Internal Research Award Program website.

Links to each of the 4 subcommittee submission portals are:

- **Arts & Humanities**: [https://uncg.infoready4.com/#competitionDetail/1820485](https://uncg.infoready4.com/#competitionDetail/1820485)
- **Creative & Performing Arts**: [https://uncg.infoready4.com/#competitionDetail/1820525](https://uncg.infoready4.com/#competitionDetail/1820525)
- **Social & Behavioral Sciences**: [https://uncg.infoready4.com/#competitionDetail/1820515](https://uncg.infoready4.com/#competitionDetail/1820515)
- **Physical & Natural Sciences**: [https://uncg.infoready4.com/#competitionDetail/1820514](https://uncg.infoready4.com/#competitionDetail/1820514)

Two virtual information workshops have been scheduled as follows:

- **Tuesday, August 25, 2020** – 10:30 a.m. to Noon [https://uncg.zoom.us/j/96827895899](https://uncg.zoom.us/j/96827895899)
- **Friday, August 28, 2020** – 1 to 2:30 p.m. [https://uncg.zoom.us/j/91243440905](https://uncg.zoom.us/j/91243440905)

For submission and proposal development questions, contact Eileen Miller [ecmille2@uncg.edu](mailto:ecmille2@uncg.edu) or Kim Littlefield [kplittle@uncg.edu](mailto:kplittle@uncg.edu).

For budget questions, contact Barbara Hemphill [bbhemphi@uncg.edu](mailto:bbhemphi@uncg.edu).

An archive of previous OSP announcements may be browsed/searched [here](#).

**Office of Sponsored Programs**: [http://sponsoredprograms.uncg.edu/](http://sponsoredprograms.uncg.edu/)
UNCG featured in Gilman Advisors Spotlight Workshop Series

UNCG has a long and successful history of advising students in applying for the Gilman Scholarship for study abroad, a nationally competitive prestigious scholarship sponsored by the U.S. Department of State. Recently, the University has been recognized as a leader in supporting Black students in particular applying for Gilman, and has been invited to share its methodology with other international educators as part of the Gilman Advisors Spotlight Workshop Series.

Join us for the Gilman Advisor Spotlight: Black Students webinar on Wednesday, Aug. 26, at 1 p.m. EST. Click here to register.

IPC staff Tom Martinek and Heidi Bretz will share some strategies advisors and faculty can use to support students, particularly Black students, in applying for and receiving this prestigious award. For those who cannot attend live, a link to the recording will be available after.

Dr. Blair Wisco

Dr. Blair Wisco (Psychology) is the recipient of an Award for Outstanding Contributions to Trauma Psychology from Division 56 of the American Psychological Association!

This award recognizes Psychologists in the early stages of their careers who have shown outstanding achievement or who have made outstanding contributions to the study of
psychological trauma.

Wisco is the Director of the CoPE (Cognition, Psychopathology, and Emotion) Lab. A current focus of her research is trauma memory processing among individuals with Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), and in particular, physiological and emotional reactivity to trauma reminders in PTSD.

**Dr. Malcolm Schug**

Dr. Malcolm Schug (Biology) received new funding from the National Science Foundation for the project “Preparing College Students who Enter from High School or Transfer from Community Colleges for STEM Careers and Graduate School”

The overall goal of STAMPS 3.0 (Science, Technology and Math Preparation Scholarships) is to develop a program that prepares both First Time in College students (FTIC) and community college (CC) transfer students for careers in STEM or graduate school and provides a model that can be sustained and replicated at other universities. Drawing on the strengths and lessons learned of the STAMPS program, the researchers propose the following program objectives: identify and provide financial assistance to academically talented and financially needy entering FTIC and CC transfer students to enable them to complete degrees in STEM disciplines; create a self-sustaining supportive environment that becomes a model for similar institutions; study the impact of programmatic activities and support provided to determine if these program elements differ by group; and share what we learn.

The researchers’ program will support two cohorts each with 10 FTIC and 10 CC transfer students. The first FTIC cohort (2021-22) will be eligible for up to eight semesters of scholarships and the CC transfer students cohort 6 semesters. For the 2022-23 cohort the number of semesters of support will decline correspondingly. At least 40 students will be supported. The researchers will work with Admissions and financial aid to identity admitted students who meet both academic and financial need requirements. Eligible students will be invited to apply.
Students will participate in a one-credit course for each of their first three semesters on Campus to establish a cohort that helps bridge the transition from high school or CC. STAMPS students will be assigned a faculty and peer mentor; be exposed to student success services, visit research labs, attend science seminars, and encouraged to participate in undergraduate research. After the course, STAMPS will provide opportunities for students to continue to participate in their cohort.

Qualitative and quantitative research data will be collected concurrently to extend the scope and range of inquiry, to learn about different phenomena within the same study, and to capture the richness and diversity of the programmatic experiences. Data sources will include observations, participant and SSTEM comparison group surveys, focus groups and interviews with select participants, and mini-case studies including a photovoice component.

The evaluation uses a mixed methods approach for both the formative and summative evaluations to identify themes and patterns. Questions to be considered are: Do themes emerge around specific items in the data? How do these patterns (or lack thereof) help to shed light on the broader study question(s)? Are there any deviations from these patterns and how can they be explained? Do any of the patterns/emergent themes suggest additional data needs to be collected or study questions revised?

Dr. Keith Cushman

Dr. Keith Cushman (English) was awarded the Jane Harris Armfield Award this summer from the Greensboro Opera, in honor of his significant contributions throughout the years. Read more about this award, and the Greensboro Opera here.

Dr. Christopher Kepley
Dr. Christopher Kepley (Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering) received new funding from the National Institutes of Health for the project “Studies Examining Quantitative in Vivo Imaging of Breast Cancer-Targeted, Therapeutic Human Mast Cells.”

Breast cancer (BC) continues to be a serious health problem in the United States. The oncogene HER2/neu and the folate receptor alpha (FR) are overexpressed in BC and validated targets for cancer therapeutics. The humanized IgG1 monoclonal antibody (Ab) trastuzumab (Herceptin®) has been approved by the FDA for the treatment of advanced BC and several humanized IgG Abs to FR are in clinical trials. However, their efficacy is limited and additional strategies to target HER2/neu and FR overexpressing tumors are still urgently needed. Interestingly, high densities of mast cells (MC) in BC tumors are associated with favorable prognoses.

The researchers discovered that human adipose cells can be differentiated into autologous, fully functional MC capable of releasing anti-tumor mediators TNF- and GM-CSF upon FcRI stimulation and inducing BC cell death. In addition, researchers have shown for the first time that primary human MC and their stem cell precursors can be transduced with a lentiviral vector carrying green fluorescence (GFP) protein opening up the possibility they could be transduced with other tumor killing molecules (e.g. TRAIL, granzyme, etc.) to create new ways to treat BC by directing immune evading cells with anti-tumor agents to tumors. However, it is important to determine if the ADMC will target cancer cells in vivo, determine the initial pharmacokinetics of this interaction, and establish proof-of-principle in regards to efficacy.

The researchers’ overall hypothesis is ADMC can be transduced with genetic imaging modules that will allow for the visualization and quantification of binding to luciferase transduced BC cells/tumors in vivo after i.v. injection. Herein, the researchers will use a novel and safer lentivirus vector system to transduce ADMC with genetic modules that will allow for in vivo visualization without affecting BC cell killing capabilities by comparing their ability to induce BC cell death compared to non-transduced ADMC. Further, the researchers will visualize and quantify ADMC binding to BC cells in vivo and assess overt signs of toxicology activity in xenograft tumor models.
Dr. Prashanti Manda

Dr. Prashanti Manda (Computer Science) received new funding from the National Science Foundation for the project “CAREER: Ontology-Powered Named Entity Recognition and Robust Semantic Similarity Metrics.”

Ontologies have been used for data representation in biology since 2006 and have powered an array of computational applications. However, the process of translating knowledge in literature to an ontology-based representation is still largely manual and does not scale well. This proposal will address challenges at the frontier of Natural Language Processing – automated curation of biological literature via Named Entity Recognition (NER) of ontology concepts.

The accurate evaluation of ontology-based NLP systems requires robust semantic similarity measures that can estimate degrees of partial relatedness between an NLP tool’s output and a gold standard. While a number of semantic similarity metrics do exist, their robustness and ability to identify small amounts of similarity is unclear. Here, the researcher proposes to develop novel deep learning architectures for ontology based NER and robust semantic similarity metrics that can accurately assess the performance of the above models.

Dr. Stephen Sills
Dr. Stephen Sills (Center for Housing and Community Studies) received new funding from the Reinvestment Fund, Inc./Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for the project “Invest Health Greensboro Supplemental Funds for Technical Assistance, Site Visits, and Learning Exchanges.”

Safe and affordable housing can act as an upstream “prescription” for asthma. Greensboro is presently positioned to engage and develop upstream policy and program solutions to tackle health issues that are exacerbated by substandard and unhealthy housing. By investing in affordable housing and supportive services, municipalities and health systems can leverage financial resources to improve housing quality. The researchers’ pipeline of building projects will address the link between substandard housing and asthma and build a healthier community with affordable, quality housing opportunities for more than 26,000 individuals in the city who suffer from chronic asthma (CDC 500). The goal is to meet the needs of those most affected by 1) targeting substandard homes in neighborhoods most impacted by respiratory illness, while 2) helping to improving the quality of existing housing and reduce household utility and healthcare costs, and thereby 3) improving health conditions and reducing disparities. This project requires collaboration and continued systems/policy changes by institutional actors as well as direct input from those most affected. The project brings together a team of community members, housing advocates, a major health system, developers, municipal officials, and data scientists.

The Supplemental Funding from Invest Health is for Targeted Technical Assistance, Multi-Team Technical Assistance, as well as Site Visits/Learning Exchanges. This will includes travel to/from Spokane Washington in partnership with the IH Spokane team; a series of technical assistance webinar/virtual convening open to other IH teams (Policy Link, Corporation for Supportive Housing, Abt); Capacity building in our local team through CSH Training Subscriptions and attendance at the Center for Community Progress Reclaiming Vacant Spaces Conference; and most importantly face-to-face technical assistance meetings meetings with the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) Charlotte, North Carolina Housing Finance Agency, North Carolina Housing Coalition, and Duke Law School Community Enterprise Clinic.

Dr. Diya Abdo
Dr. Diya Abdo (Center for New North Carolinians) received new funding from Guilford County for the project “CARES Community Centers COVID-19 Response.”

Due to significant increase in requests for case management (from existing CNNC clients and referrals at Community Centers which are in COVID-19 Guilford County hotspots) because of the impact of COVID-19, the researchers are proposing to fund case management, interpreter personnel, supplies, food, and PPE to provide heavily COVID-19 impacted families and individuals with culturally appropriate and linguistically accurate services around public health information, health access, food and PPE access, housing stability, and employment.

**Newsmakers: Face covering giveaway, Lenstra, Bacot, Caza, GPS**

Whether researchers with timely insights or students with outstanding stories, members of the UNCG community appear in print, web and broadcast media every day. Here is a sampling of UNCG-related stories in the news and media over the week:

- The News & Record highlighted UNCG’s free face covering giveaway on the first day of classes. [The feature](#).
- Dr. Noah Lenstra wrote a piece for WebJunction about the StoryWalk initiative. [The article](#).
- WFLY News2 spoke to Dr. Hunter Bacot about the trustworthiness of political polls. [The piece](#).
- Dr. Brianna Caza was a co-researcher on a report about the work of independent scientists. [See more](#).
- The News & Record highlighted the Greensboro Project Space’s move to a new location. [The piece](#).