

CAUSES Faculty and Program Staff Profiles



Dr. B. Michelle Harris is the Director of Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) at the University of the District of Columbia and is building collaborations for projects that address minority health, women's health, health disparities, obesity, and diabetes. She is a registered dietitian and nutrition educator whose focus is public health and community health through education, information, and research. A Native Washingtonian and a product of the District of Columbia Public Schools, Dr. Harris earned a BA degree in Chemistry from Holy Cross College, an MS in Nutrition and Food Science from Framingham State College, and an MPH from Harvard. She earned a PhD in Nutrition from the University of Maryland, College Park. Her dissertation research study is titled, "Birth Weight and Current Weight Status and Their Relationship to Type 2 Diabetes in African-American Women." She was funded by a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Active Living Research Diversity Partnership grant for a study titled, "The Relationship Among the Availability of Healthy Foods, Body Mass Index, and Dietary Patterns in Urban Adolescents." She served as a volunteer health columnist for *East of the River*, a newsmagazine. She currently serves as a DC Licensed Allied Health Professional member of the Board of Long-Term Care Administration. Dr. Harris' professional career at the community and public health levels has taken her to Boston, Massachusetts; Guatemala, Central America (as a Peace Corps Volunteer); Alexandria, Virginia; Baltimore, Maryland and; Washington, D.C.



Dr. Tia Jeffery is an Assistant Professor of Nutrition and Dietetics. Prior to joining CAUSES, she provided nutrition management for kidney dialysis at Fresenius Medical Care in California, medical nutrition therapy at Holy Cross Hospital in Maryland, and administered weight management and diabetes programs for Healing Our Village, Inc. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Dietetics and Dietetic Internship Certificate from Oakwood University in Huntsville, Alabama, a Master of Science in Human Nutrition (with a cognate concentration in Exercise Science) from The Ohio State University and a Ph.D. in Public Health (with a specialization in Community Health Promotion and Education) from Walden University. Dr. Jeffery is a Registered Dietitian/Nutritionist and Certified Health Education Specialist.