

Thursday, Apr 27, 2017

Oakland University hosts inaugural Healthology Symposium

Oakland University's School of Health Sciences recently hosted the inaugural Healthology Symposium.

The invitation-only event provided an opportunity for aspiring professionals, alumni, emeriti and health leaders to explore contemporary health challenges and discuss the complexity of health within its varied contexts.

"I see Healthology as an opportunity to foster connections both across disciplines and across our alumni, community partners and faculty," said Jennifer Lucarelli, Ph.D., an associate professor of Health Sciences at Oakland University.

"I hope we were able to inspire the audience to look outside of the traditional boundaries of academia and see how our work can have a direct community impact in the lives and well-being of our neighbors."

Dr. Scott Crabill, interim associate dean of the School of Health Sciences, offered welcoming remarks that highlighted how interdisciplinary and interprofessional education serve as vehicles for civic engagement, while Dr. Kevin Ball, who serves dean and professor for the School of Health Sciences, provided information about the School's commitment to the underlying principles "purpose, for health."

"True to our tagline of 'where science, practice and social interests meet,' in our first Healthology Symposium we began by celebrating our near-50 years of history," Dr. Ball said. "Then, it was my honor to proclaim our four themes for the future: Interdisciplinary Health Sciences, Clinical and Diagnostic Sciences; Human Movement Science; and Public and Environment Wellness."

Dr. Moon Jae-J Pak, a former associate professor of biological sciences at Oakland University who also served as associate provost and director of the Center for Health Sciences (now the School for Health Sciences), was also presented with the Health Achievement Leadership Legacy Award during the event.

"I think we had an exceptional turnout for the inaugural Healthology Symposium," Lucarelli said.

At the event, Dr. Lucarelli, along with guest speakers Kristen Wiltfang and Shannon Brownlee, showcased how the Healthy Pontiac, We Can! coalition – a collaborative network of more than 40 non-profit organizations, government agencies, health care institutions and educational establishments – has increased community capacity and strengthened the OU-community connection to enhance quality of life.

"I was honored to have been given the opportunity to share a piece of the extensive work of the Healthy Pontiac, We Can! coalition," Lucarelli said. "Many of our community partners were in the room, and were given a fresh perspective on the work that we've been so closely involved with over the years. It was enlightening to take a look back at what has been accomplished in just six years through our dedication and collaborations."

Dr. Lucarelli has served as the chair of the Healthy Pontiac, We Can! coalition since its inception in 2011.

"Healthy Pontiac's extensive planning and data-driven process help to prepare us to be successful in securing resources and working across agencies to implement our strategic plan to help Pontiac become a vibrant community that supports healthy lifestyles for all," she said. "I also met many new friends from the School of Health Sciences who are interested in ways to get involved with our work our take it back to their own communities. With the University's support and leadership of the OU/Pontiac Initiative, opportunities abound to expand our impact."

To learn more about the Healthy Pontiac, We Can! Coalition, visit www.healthypontiac.org. For



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