Community-Researcher Partnerships for Food Justice

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Grounding

History of injustice and inequity and ways of overcoming the status quo. Our first speaker will share a national context followed by speakers providing local contexts.

• **Food as a Human Right: The Importance of Food Access in Promoting the Health and Well-Being of Urban Communities**
  
  *Dr. Angela Odoms-Young*, Department of Kinesiology and Nutrition, University of Illinois at Chicago

• **Decolonizing Food, Consciousness, Culture and Community**
  
  *Sam Grant*, Movement Center for Deep Democracy, AfroEco

*Wenzikaamagak: From Our Roots: Food Sovereignty in indigenous life*

• **Renee Gurneau and Simone Senogles**, Indigenous Environmental Network
The Issues

• How to decolonize food and science system; appreciate and recognize community and indigenous knowledge.

• The ETHICS of our work and self-reflection

• Science is one determinant. Social and political determinants of health and food justice

• Need to develop inside outside alliances and strategies to advance mutual priorities. Invisibility among allies.

• Key principles and practices: Need deep self reflection for effective community engagement and partnership development
Sharing and Learning

- Food sovereignty and seed preservation (Minnesota)
  - Diane and Craig
- Food Dignity (Wyoming)
  - Gayle and Christine
- Farm Bill (Washington, DC)
  - Garrett and Kathy
- Community gardens (Minnesota and Wisconsin)
  - Melvin, Megan, Valentine
  - Sheri, Nate, Maritza
- Farmer’s rights (Vermont)
  - Ernesto and Martha
- Staple food ordinance (Minnesota)
  - Cam and Kristin
- Native-owned grocery store (South Dakota)
  - Tiffany and Faith
What must researchers bring to the partnerships?

- **DOING YOUR HOMEWORK**
  - Emotional intelligence and cultural humility
- **CONTINUITY**
- **SOLIDARITY, ADVOCACY**
- **OPENNESS, RELATIONSHIPS, TRUSTWORTHINESS**
- **SHOWING UP, BEING PRESENT**
Community-Scientists Partnerships

- Community-Scientists partnerships CAN work, HAVE worked
- Recognize and honor cultural context
- Meet people where they are (physically, emotionally)
- Appreciate and be open about mutual priorities
  - Ask what people need; no assumptions
- Long term engagement
- Accountability for researchers to research is not extractive
- Due compensation (for time, knowledge)
What’s needed

• Both sides need support:
  – Institutional
  – Peer support and recognition
  – Network, hubs, shared resources and learning
  – Compensation and overhead for community members
  – Accountability, reflection, and constant checking in
• Transparency, acknowledge power dynamics, negotiate expectations and interests, collegial to contractual
• Continue courageous conversations between policy makers, community, and scientists towards durable change
• Connect food equity to broader equity movement (transportation, education, employment, etc)
“There is a mass of scientists who want to be human”
- Garrett Graddy-Lovelace

“We need to make it cool (for scientists) to be human again”
- Valentine Cadieux

“This is not rocket science, it’s harder”
- Sheri Johnson