



**WILLIAM JAMES
COLLEGE**

Center for Multicultural &
Global Mental Health

International Service Learning Programs

2016-2017 Annual Report



Center for Multicultural & Global Mental Health

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BACKGROUND

The Center for Multicultural & Global Mental Health (CMGMH) at William James College (WJC) aims to be a preeminent academic, clinical training, and research center in promoting social justice and addressing mental health disparities among culturally diverse populations in the U.S. and abroad. CMGMH is comprised of academic concentrations and programs at WJC that focus primarily on historically marginalized groups and underserved communities. These include the Concentrations in African and Caribbean Mental Health (ACMH), Global Mental Health (GMH), and Latino Mental Health (LMH) as well as the Black Mental Health Graduate Academy and the Syrian Refugees Project. The primary vision of CMGMH is to inspire and empower students, clinicians, educators, and other providers as agents of social justice with a passion for and commitment to serving historically marginalized populations.

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE LEARNING PROGRAMS

The Center for Multicultural & Global Mental Health offers transformative service learning experiences that are designed to expose, inform, and deepen students' knowledge, cultural awareness and sensitivity, and cultural fluency. Every summer, students who are enrolled in the ACMH, GMH, and LMH concentrations participate in cultural immersion programs in Ecuador, Guyana, Haiti and Kenya. The international service learning initiative is one of the many ways in which WJC supports student education to prepare them for careers that meet the growing demand for access to quality, culturally competent psychological services for individuals, groups, communities, and organizations both locally and around the globe.



ECUADOR SERVICE LEARNING PROGRAM

In the summer of 2017, five WJC students and two faculty members traveled to Guayaquil, Ecuador for four weeks where they worked and collaborated with the *Instituto de Neurociencias de la Junta de Beneficencia de Guayaquil*. Faculty led a well-received presentation on integrating psychological services in primary care settings for 120 attendees. Students had the opportunity of rotating between four different departments within the Institute: Center for Integral Rehabilitation, Center for Addictions, Outpatient Hospital, and Residencies. Side by side with local psychologists, students conducted intakes, administered neuropsychological and projective batteries, assisted in writing reports, participated in clinical discussions, led psychoeducational workshops and worked with family members. Students also co-facilitated music, dance, yoga, tai chi, and art groups for youth.



GUYANA SERVICE LEARNING PROGRAM



In July 2017, six WJC students and three faculty members traveled to Guyana for a 10-day Service Learning & Cultural Immersion Program. In partnership with The Guyana Foundation; Sherjoy Daycare, Playgroup, and Nursery; and the Guyana District of the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas, the group conducted mental health workshops to enhance women and youth's empowerment as well as facilitated a 2-day suicide gatekeeper training with community leaders to address Guyana's high incidence of suicide.



HAITI SERVICE LEARNING PROGRAM

In July 2017, six WJC students and three faculty members took part in a 10-day immersion experience in Haiti. The Haiti Service Learning Program is a joint partnership between William James College and the Association des Paysants de Vallue (APV), a local non-governmental organization that engages students in service learning activities and multidisciplinary collaborations with schools, grassroots organizations and social services agencies. The team led a summer camp program for 60 young children, and facilitated a host of social-recreational and expressive arts programming for the youth. The immersion experience concluded with an annual cultural festival, hosted by APV and attended by more than 400 community leaders, public officials, artisans, teachers, and families.



KENYA SERVICE LEARNING PROGRAM



In July 2017, a cohort of six WJC students and two faculty spent two weeks in Thika, Kenya, participating in a collaborative project between William James College, the Kimo Wellness Foundation, and the Muthuru School. This program is supported by a grant from Proctor & Gamble Kenya's Safe Drinking Water Program that works to increase access to safe drinking water. This year's immersion project combined the

delivery of clean drinking water supplies with a whole community, social-emotional learning program to insure sustainability, continuity of care, and positive change. While in Thika, students worked alongside teachers and community organizers in the children's classrooms to implement the strength-based curriculum. The program began and ended with a community meeting that included parents. In these meetings, WJC students and faculty outlined intentions and clarified goals. The culmination of the program was a community-wide presentation where parents and local officials celebrated the work of their children and their school. The cultural immersion programs gave CMGMH students experience at the local level where they were able to integrate into a community and perform services while weaving the opportunity into their course curricula.

DONATIONS FROM *DRESS A GIRL AROUND THE WORLD*

In 2017, the Center for Multicultural & Global Mental Health at William James College received a **generous gift of 100 beautifully-designed dresses** from *Dress a Girl Around the World*. The dresses were donated to schools, community-based agencies and other partner organizations in Ecuador, Guyana, Haiti and Kenya.



Donations are welcome for our 2018 international immersion programs! We anticipate that between 25 and 30 WJC students and faculty will travel to Ecuador, Guyana, Haiti, and Kenya to provide psychoeducational trainings and group workshops, and organize a host of expressive arts and summer camp programs for children and adolescents. The immersion programs will run from June 29, 2018 through August 11, 2018.



For More Information

To learn more about our international service learning programs, please:

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