

## Health Workforce Speaker Series Healthcare Career Pipeline Programs for Underserved Youth

November 10, 2016

The ACA's emphasis on managing the social determinants of health has given new meaning to the policy goal of improving health workforce equity and renewed interest in strategies to provide youth from underserved communities with access to medical careers and good, family supporting jobs in healthcare. This special GW Health Workforce Institute brownbag lunch will feature an interactive discussion of the findings of three recent studies on the developmental pathways of underserved youth and how initiatives, like the GW Health Workforce Institutes' new career pipeline program can help first generation students enter and succeed in higher education and professional careers.

*The Everyday Life of Youth Living in the NiNi Status in Mexico City:* Dr. Armando Justo, Researcher, Inter-American Development Bank.

This ethnographic study explored the everyday activities of youth in Mexico City who neither work or attend school, commonly known in Mexico as the *NiNi*. The purpose of this study was to better understand how these young people made meaning of their life circumstances, the learning processes they employed and the impediments they faced to personal development and to entering into productive adult roles and lives. Their experiences point to the need for greater opportunities for youth in *NiNi* status to act in ways that change their environment as well as the social support that they need to overcome the cultural and historic limitations to their development.

*Biographical Insights into How Urban Young Adults Shape Their Lives:* Dr. Karen Nestor, Post-Doctorate Fellow in Lifelong Learning, The Graduation School of Education and Human Development.

This biographical study explored the processes through which 17 young urban adults navigated difficult life circumstances to attend college and positively shape their lives, in a community where fewer than 50% of students graduate high school. Each person told her/his life story in extended interviews that revealed the complex interplay between individuals and the social factors that helped them identify and achieve their goals. Their stories provide important insights into how to harness these factors in order to support urban youth in establishing a positive life trajectory.

*Case Study Evaluation of a Healthcare Education Program:* Dr. Ellen Scully-Russ, Associate Professor Human and Organization Learning and Dr. Rebecca Thessin, Assistant Professor, Education Leadership, The Graduate School of Education and Human Development

This case study explored the key features and critical success factors in an effective Career and Technical Education program designed to expose high school students to healthcare careers and to build their career decision efficacy. This study, which was based on a comprehensive literature review of empirical work on effective career and technical education models, provides insight into the structural and cultural features of programs that help young people explore their career interests and make decisions about their post-secondary education and future careers.

## Organizing Questions

1. What have we learned about the about the lives of the youth who participated in these studies?
2. What have we learned about the factors and conditions that support the learning and development of young people?
3. What have we learned about the programs that help move young people forward into a career?