

A Selection of 2016-17 Chicago Schweitzer Fellows' Projects

Karen Aguirre, University of Illinois at Chicago, School of Public Health

Karen will develop a pipeline program to promote healthcare careers among low income, Latinx high school students from the Back of the Yards neighborhood. She will provide education on current health disparities in communities of color within Chicago, professional development, and healthy behaviors, with the aim of empowering minority students to pursue higher education.

Nelly Gonzalez, Loyola University Chicago, Stritch School of Medicine

Nelly will partner with the Access to Care Clinic in Northwest Chicago where she plans to design, develop and evaluate a Health Coaching program. She will provide personalized, bilingual health education, resource referral and motivational interviewing techniques to influence long-term healthy behavioral change among ATC patients.

Woodger Graff Faugas, Northwestern University, Pritzker School of Law

Woodger will lead a psychosocial support group for marginalized youth attending Chicago-area higher education institutions. He will teach adaptive/coping tools aimed at fostering the students' mental health, healthy behaviors, and resilience with the stressors they may face.

Victoria Herrera, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Master of Arts in Art Therapy Program

Victoria proposes to implement an intergenerational art program for Hispanic young children, adolescents, and older adults at Erie Neighborhood House. The classes will provide all age groups an opportunity to engage in art making while forming positive relationships across the generations.

Hieu Pham, Rush Medical College

Hieu plans to create a mentorship and empowerment curriculum for LGBT homeless youth at the Crib, a shelter at the Night Ministry. The curriculum will provide a creative space for self-expression and self-care, health education, and healthcare access.

Angela Pruitt, Chicago State University, College of Pharmacy

Angela proposes to initiate heart health seminars for African American young adults on Chicago's south side. These seminars will engage youth in preventative efforts to reduce the incidence and prevalence of heart disease and stroke in Chicago's underserved communities.

Gabija Revis, University of Illinois at Chicago, College of Dentistry & School of Public Health

Gabija will create an oral health component for the extensive training program used to teach caregivers of medically-complex children and healthcare professionals at Almost Home Kids, a transition facility for children being moved out of intensive hospital care. The oral health program will educate caregivers, medical professionals, and dental professionals at Almost Home Kids and University of Illinois on the specific oral health needs of the medically-complex child in hopes of beginning to shed light on the access to care issues facing this community.

Ashley Roché, Rush University, College of Nursing

Ashley will initiate educational sessions about end-of-life care and planning with socially isolated elders at Little Brothers–Friends of the Elderly, Chicago Chapter. The sessions will provide support to elders in determining their preferences for end-of life care and ensure that their healthcare plans are implemented according to their wishes.

Kris Rosentel, The University of Chicago, School of Social Service Administration

Kris proposes to start a peer-led group and offer counseling to LGBTQ youth on the South Side of Chicago. Both the group and counseling will provide social support to the youth; the group will also offer leadership opportunities for youth.