

SEPA Outreach Events (Spring & Fall 2023)

Outreach Demonstration Events

The investigators for the High School 2 Health Care (HS2HC) Science Education Partnership Award (SEPA) grant have conducted outreach activities in the community and outside of the state of Tennessee as well. Dr. Keisha Burnett arranged an outreach session with Ms. Kari Hughes, a classroom science teacher at Selmer Middle School, and her class on June 22, 2023. During this session, Dr. Keisha Burnett, a lab scientist, explained her role and the importance of cytology in the field of health. Specifically, she discussed how cytology plays a crucial role in diagnosing and monitoring oral cavity cancer, also known as oral or mouth cancer.

Dr. Burnett explained various cell collection methods, particularly from the oral cavity. One of the activities during this outreach involved the students collecting their own cheek cells, which is a common method used in cytology for cell collection.

Additionally, Dr. Burnett prepared several steps for staining and cell collection procedures and provided microscopes so that the students could examine their own cheek cells under the microscope. This hands-on experience likely allowed the students to see the importance of cytology in action and gain a better understanding of how it is used in diagnosing and monitoring diseases like oral cancer.



The UT Martin Selmer Center Coon Creek STEM Science Camp on July 13th featured presentations by two High School 2 Health Care (HS2HC) SEPA Principal Investigators. Dr. Keisha Burnett (with the assistance of Chelsea Peeler, Instructor, Master of Cytopathology Practice program at The University of Tennessee Health Science Center) discussed the importance of cytology in diagnosing and monitoring disease. Dr. Burnett explained various cell collection methods such as brushing, scraping, or fine needle aspiration. Dr. Burnett, along with Ms. Peeler, guided students through the staining and cell collection procedure, and they provided high-end microscopes to allow students to observe their cheek cells under a microscope. Dr. Taylor, A SEPA PI and Education Coordinator, contributed to

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the camp by presenting a problem-based learning (PBL) scenario on Yellow Fever. After the short discussion activity, the students engaged in an activity related to the cycle of disease transmission. It's great to see such engaging and educational activities for young participants aged 8-13 years old at the camp!



Osceola Library-Orlando Florida Demonstration: During our attendance at a conference in Orlando Florida, the SEPA team decided to conduct an outreach event. The team conducted a science day at the Hart Memorial Library in Orlando, Fla. Ms. Lisa Jones, youth services manager at the library, was very helpful with the promotion of the event. The library created and posted a flyer on its patron's website. During the event, students were able to experience hands-on science activities via Distance Learning.

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Hands-on Health:

Exploring a Career in Healthcare

1pm - 3pm
Tuesday, July 18

Hart Memorial Library | Lillie Room 2nd Floor

Explore your future career in healthcare!
Develop important hands-on skills in this immersive experience.

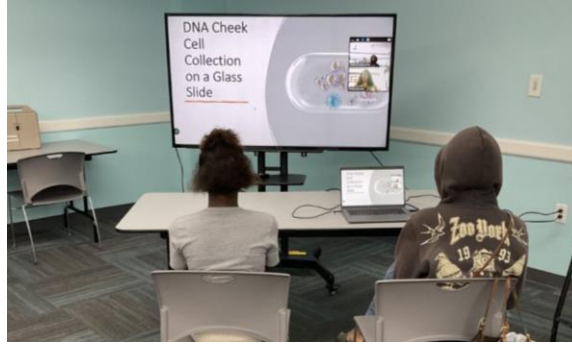
This program, funded by a Science Education Partnership Award (SEPA) grant to the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, is in conjunction with the Ripley Extension Center at the University of Tennessee at Martin and the Center for Research and Education Policy at the University of Memphis.



For more information contact us at:
HS2HC@utm.edu



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The SEPA team has been actively engaged in various outreach and educational activities related to health and science in the West Tennessee area and beyond. Here's a breakdown of some key activities and events:

Science Day at Hart Memorial Library in Orlando, Florida:

- The SEPA team organized a science day at the Hart Memorial Library in Orlando, Florida.
- The library promoted the event to its patrons through a flyer.
- Students were able to participate in hands-on science activities through Distance Learning.
- Dr. Rebecca Reynolds conducted a discussion with students on the importance of identifying and using high-quality health information in the digital age.

Introduction to Cytology of the Oral Cavity:

- Dr. Keisha Barnett presented an introduction to cytology of the oral cavity, which involves the study of cells collected from the lining of the mouth, gums, tongue, and other oral tissues.

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RECRUITMENT AND DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIALS

Janay Jeans, a strategic communications specialist in Communications and Marketing at UTHSC featured the High School 2 Health Care SEPA grant in the College of Health Professions magazine, for the Spring 2023 issue. Please see pages 16-17 (scroll to the bottom of the page) at:

<https://news.uthsc.edu/spring-2023-health-professions-magazine-showcases-colleges-impact/>



- Dr. Taylor and Jason Holloway presented at the ELLI Conference March 15–17, 2023. Experiential Learning Leadership Institute (ELLI) is a nonprofit organization comprised of educators and community leaders. The team shared how to “creatively engage students” in the learning process. While sharing their poster presentation with other educators and teachers, they also shared the upcoming Teacher training for SEPA.

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- The University of Memphis invited the UT Martin Ripley Center to their 15th Annual College Fair program which was held in person at the Memphis School of Law on Friday, June 23, 2023, from 2:30 - 4:00 p.m. Approximately 60 diverse Memphis area high school juniors and seniors attended.

**High School to Health Care:
Bringing Lab and Data
Science Careers to Rural West
Tennessee High Schools**

Jacen Moore¹, Rebecca Reynolds¹, Simpfronia Taylor², Keisha Burnett¹, Erica Bell², and Carolyn Kaldon³

¹College of Health Professions, University of Tennessee Health Science Center, Memphis, TN;
²University of Tennessee at Martin, Martin, TN;
³Center for Research in Educational Policy, University of Memphis, Memphis, TN.

Introducing Lab and Data Science
Careers in high school is an important way to address workforce shortages, provide lifelong career opportunities for high school students, and improved health literacy.

Take a picture and visit our Webpage!

SEPA SCIENCE EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP AWARD
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

Figure 1 SEPA Conference Poster 2023-Washington D.C.

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We attended the NIH SciEd 2023 Annual Conference for National Institute of Health Science Education Projects, which had the theme of "Updates, Sharing Best Practices & Lessons Learned, Networking." During the conference, the team had the chance to share ideas with colleagues, and some universities located near our state expressed interest in visiting with us in the future. This kind of networking and knowledge sharing is often a valuable aspect of conferences like these.

Attending the conference was Dr. Jacen Moore, assistant professor in the Department of Diagnostic and Health Sciences in the College of Health Professions and who is the principal investigator (PI) and program director for the SEPA grant. PI, Dr. Rebecca Reynolds, professor and program director of Health Informatics and Information Management, and PI Dr. Simpfronia Taylor, director of Grants and Community Outreach at the UTM Ripley Center, attended with Dr. Moore.

ADDITIONAL OUTREACH

- **TN Department of Health Community of Practice Event:** August 23, 2023
 - a. Dr. Simpfronia Taylor attended a TN Department of Health Community of Practice kickoff event in Jackson, TN.
 - b. She participated in a panel discussion on the topic of "Health Councils and their Partnerships with outside organizations."
 - c. Dr. Taylor shared information about the NIH SEPA grant and upcoming dual enrollment courses and summer camps.
- **Lauderdale County Fair:** September 13-16
 - a. The UTM Ripley Center team regularly sets up a table at the Lauderdale County Fair to share educational opportunities offered at the UTM Ripley Center. Included among the materials were about the Summer Camp Flyer for SEPA.
 - b. This year's fair took place from September 13-16th at the Lauderdale Fairgrounds in Halls, TN.
- **High School Fair Outreach:**
 - a. Elijah Tittle, a student worker, represents the SEPA team at high school fairs.
 - b. On September 15, 2023, Elijah was present at Halls High School to share information, including flyers about a summer camp offered as part of the SEPA grant.

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It's clear that the SEPA team is actively involved in promoting science education and health awareness through various outreach initiatives and collaborations with organizations and schools in different regions. These efforts contribute to raising awareness and providing educational opportunities in the field of health and science.



Staff from our organization attended the Ripley High School College Fair sponsored by the Ayers Foundation! Having student ambassadors like Elijah Tittle

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and program resource specialists like Ashley Vance engage with students is an excellent way to promote educational opportunities, including our SEPA program. Such events play a crucial role in providing students with information and guidance as they explore their future educational and career paths.



Our student ambassador /Student Worker Elijah manned a recruitment table near the entrance gate later that night at the Dyer County High School football on September 15th.



The UTM Ripley Center shared table space with our Somerville Regional Center at the TACRAO Memphis Area Wide College Night on September 18th! We had an opportunity to share SEPA flyers with the audience that attended.

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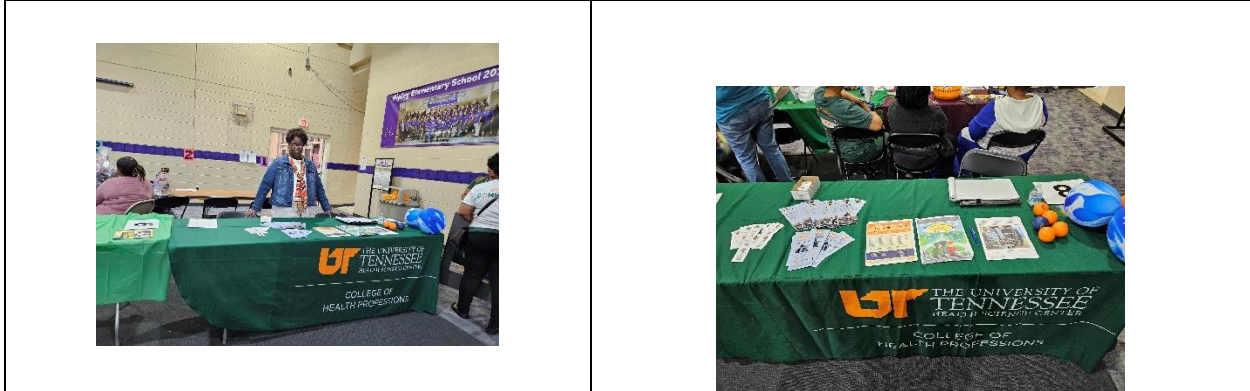
The SEPA team has provided information about the future SEPA Summer Camp to the public. Here's a summary of the information Dr. Simpfronia Taylor has shared:

- **Event on September 29th: Regional Counselor Luncheon**
 - Hosted by the UT Martin Ripley Center.
 - Featured Dr. Taylor, who explained the concept behind the SEPA camp.
 - Dr. Taylor shared the High School 2 Health Care (HS2HC) website: <https://hs2hc.uthsc.edu/>.
 - Registration for the camp is open, and parents can download materials and apply.



- Flyers were shared with Lauderdale Rotary.
- A short talk was presented at the Lauderdale Health Council and the UTM Ripley Center Board Meeting in May of the same year.

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Instagram

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সাইন আপ করুন



uthscnursing • ফলো করুন



uthscnursing Saturday was a beautiful day for about 150 students and faculty from @uthsc to go to Ripley for the Living Healthy in Lauderdale County Health Fair. Great connections were made, and resources were shared. Even Mack the puppy enjoyed himself! The UTHSC College of Nursing was happy to sponsor this event and appreciates all who helped, including more than 40 community members from



৩৭টি পছন্দ
30 অক্টোবর 2023

পছন্দ বা মন্তব্য করতে লগ ইন করুন।

- The Lauderdale County Health Fair/Community Outreach event was held Saturday, October 28th at Ripley Elementary School.
- SEPA team Member Dr. Simpfronia Taylor volunteered on the local planning Committee for several months.
- Comments from Dr. Michelle Rickard (UTHSC) who spearheaded the event “...everyone I have met in the community has been in awe that students and faculty from UTHSC would be willing to travel so far to meet them”.

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- It was an amazing experience to watch the connections being made between students, faculty, community leaders, and attendees. If you were part of or witnessed new connections being made or were able to work with students, please share that with me. We are collecting as many stories as possible to share with our leaders in hopes that we can continue with other events that will help the community.
- Here are some numbers that show the impact:
 - 151 students and faculty signed in
 - More than 40 community members from various private and government organizations participated.
 - Over 200 people from the community attended the event.



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- Tennessee Science Teachers Association State Conference on November 2-3 in Murfreesboro, TN
- TSTA is the leading science and STEM organization for formal and non-formal educators in the State
- Flyers distributed and connections made with Teachers in Dyersburg and Ripley TN.



- SEPA staff participated in the 2nd annual TN Health Careers Summit and Expo, convened by TN AHEC, hosted on the campus

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of Baptist Health Sciences University (BHSU) and Meharry Medical College on November 9th from 9 am to 1 pm.

- Dr. Moore shared the programs available at UTHSC for Lab and Data Science careers. Dr. Taylor shared information about the High School to Health Care summer camp and the Biology 180 dual enrollment course.



- We had 425 students from 34 different schools in TN, MS, and AR that registered in Memphis.
- College Connection Day College Connection Day is an annual University of Tennessee Martin (UTM) campus-wide event sponsored by the College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences in which high school juniors from across Weakley County come to UT Martin for the day.

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- It's a great way to remind our local high school students that what they want in a university can be found locally and with a more personal touch.
- Three staff members from UTHSC provided insight on Health Careers in the Lab and Data Science areas:
 - Chelsea N Peeler, Sheila Criswell, and Robert Hatfield.
 - Staff met with UTM students during the 10-11:30 slot and then again from 2-3pm

Dr. Taylor and the UT Martin Ripley Center SEPA staff have also shared the HS2HC flyers with the Lauderdale Rotary and presented a short talk at the Lauderdale Health Council and the UTM Ripley Center Board Meeting in May 2023.