

8th Annual Summit on Social Consciousness Panelist



Ingrid Slikkers, LMSW, CCTP, CCTS-I
Assistant Professor of Social Work MSW, LMSW
Andrews University

Ingrid Weiss Slikkers has been a social worker and therapist since the early 90s and currently teaches at Andrews. She comes from an Uruguayan/Argentinean family and has done focused work with the Latino community. Over the last 7 years she has also worked with refugees coming from overseas and immigrant programs locally. As a member of the International Association of Trauma Professionals and the director of the new Trauma Center at Andrews, she has been able to travel, taking graduate students, overseas to refugee camps to educate and help with trauma.

Brandy Lovelady Mitchell, PhD
Director of Equity,
Kent Intermediate School District

Dr. Brandy Lovelady Mitchell is a lifelong children's and public education advocate who is passionate about helping students and educational staff maximize their potential. She began her career at what is now Network 180, connecting children and families to mental health and substance abuse services.

Currently, she serves as the inaugural Director of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion for Kent Intermediate School District.

Dr. Lovelady Mitchell completed a Doctorate of Educational Leadership at Eastern Michigan University. Her doctoral studies focused on high-achieving Black males at the secondary level. Dr. Lovelady Mitchell says her intention is to help educators and key stakeholders shift the narrative from pathologies to the success stories of children of color. Her professional work and doctoral studies caused Eastern Michigan University to describe her as an "upcoming educator to watch" and the university has honored her as one of their 2015 Scholars of Excellence. Recently, the Grand Rapids chapter of Historically Black Colleges and Universities honored Brandy as an Elite Educationalist. Mitchell is one of Michigan's former State Social Action Coordinators for Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.



Nicki Britten, MPH
Health Officer
Berrien County Health Department

Nicki Britten is the Health Officer for the Berrien County Health Department.



Harvey Burnett, PhD.
Chair, School of Social & Behavioral Sciences, Associate Professor of Psychology
Andrews University

Association. Presently, he serves as the clinical director and board member of the Berrien County Critical incident Stress Management (CISM) team that he has been part of for over 15 years. He was also involved in providing CISM interventions to victims of the World Trade Center attacks after September 11th and the Adventist University in Haiti after the 2010 earthquake.

In addition, he has worked in law enforcement for the past 22 years, and presently is a police sergeant, assistant emergency management coordinator, Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.)/school liaison officer, team member of the Berrien County Crisis Negotiation Team, and coordinates the Community Policing and Behavioral Science section with the Buchanan Police Department. For the past 18 years, Dr. Burnett continues to serve as an elected trustee on the Buchanan Community Schools Board of Education and is currently the board President.

Dr. Burnett operates a part-time private practice and is the proud father of three children.



Twyla Smith, LLMSW

Title: Assistant Professor of Social Work & Director of Field Education MSW\
Andrews University

Professor Twyla E. Smith, received both her Bachelor's in Psychology (1993) and her MSW (2008) from Andrews University with an emphasis in Administration & Development. She has almost 30 years' experience in the Health and Human Service sector. Prior to joining the faculty as the Director of Field Education for the School of Social Work, Mrs. Smith was the Deputy Director of Southwest Michigan Community Action Agency (SMCAA) for 6 years and responsible for human resources, organizational and program development, resource development and outcomes evaluation. SMCAA serves approximately 13,000 individuals and 6,500 families in Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren Counties.

During her career, Twyla has successfully managed change by analyzing, identifying, improving and/or implementing functional structures. She has a unique combination of expertise in management, asset-based development and information technology and is a collaborative leader and team-builder, adept at inspiring creative, solution focused work environments.

Areas of practice Twyla is interested in researching are: community development through effective collaboration; economic inequality; and field education.

Twyla is married to Pastor Jeff Smith, WAUS Program Director. WAUS is Michiana's 24-hour Classical Connection and broadcasts from the Campus of Andrews University. Mrs. Smith has lived and served with her husband in Michigan, Ontario and New Jersey. They have been married since 1991. Pastor and Mrs. Smith are currently serving as a presenting couple for the Adventist Engaged Encounter (AEE) marriage preparation ministry founded by Don and Sue Murray. AEE events are held in the Spring and Fall each year on the campus of Andrews University. For more information about AEE search for "Engaged Encounter" on Facebook or email aee@andrews.edu.



Padma P. Tadi Uppala, PhD

Professor, School Chair; Director, BSPH
Andrews University



Lynn Todman, PhD
Executive Director for Population Health
Spectrum Health Lakeland (Lakeland)

Trained as an urban planner, Lynn Todman, PhD has a strong and demonstrated commitment to the needs of low-income urban communities. The focus of her work includes health equity, social determinants of health (including mental health), health impact assessment, urban poverty, community development, and the impact of structural racism on community health.

Lynn is the Executive Director for Population Health at Spectrum Health Lakeland (Lakeland) in St. Joseph, Michigan. In her role, she helps set the strategic direction of the health system efforts to improve population health and reduce health inequities.

She is also the catalyst behind Community Grand Rounds, a speaker series designed to educate healthcare providers and community members about the connection between racism and health, and to use that education to narrow health inequities in Berrien County, MI. Lynn has also stimulated a series of community gatherings, Brave Talks, that provide community members with understanding, language and tools to bring about community change.

Lynn is also a Robert Wood Johnson Culture of Health Leader. A national leadership development program supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Culture of Health Leader Program fosters collaboration between people from all fields and professions that have an influence on health.

As an author, keynoter, panelist, and a moderator at conferences throughout the U.S., Canada, and Europe, Lynn has addressed a variety of topics, including social exclusion, childhood trauma, the social determinants of mental health, mental health impact assessment, health equity, and structural racism.

Prior to her role at Lakeland, Lynn was Vice President for Leadership in Social Justice and Executive Director of the Institute on Social Exclusion at the Adler School of Professional Psychology in Chicago. She's also held positions at the University of Milan and the Politcnico di Milano (both in Italy), Western Michigan University, University of Notre Dame and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Lynn earned a B.A. from Wellesley College, and a Master's in City Planning (M.C.P) and a Ph.D. in Urban and Regional Planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Since 2018, Lynn has been a commissioner of the city of St. Joseph and is the commission's representative on the Downtown Development Authority.



Anita Fernander
Associate Professor of Behavioral Science, College of Medicine,
University of Kentucky

Anita Fernander received her Ph.D. in Clinical Health Psychology from the University of Miami, has a Master's Degree in the same and holds two Bachelor's degrees (one in Physical Education and the other in Psychology) from Oakwood College (now Oakwood University) an HBCU in Huntsville, Alabama. Prior to arriving at the University of Kentucky she completed a post-doctoral fellowship in Medical Psychology at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. Her primary area of research and teaching has focused on examining the impact of race-related stress on health disparities among African Americans. She teaches the following courses: "Race, Racism and Health Disparities among Blacks in the U.S.", "The History of Medicine among Blacks in the U.S.: Implications for Health Disparities" and "Introduction to Clinical Medicine". Her current scholarly passion is focused on increasing the number of under-represented minorities in medicine, training and mentoring students and faculty regarding cultural humility, and promoting diversity, inclusivity, and equity in academic medicine. She is also Founder & Chair of the Lexington-Fayette County Health Disparities Coalition.

Hosts:



Michael Nixon, Esq.
Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion
Andrews University



Jeff Boyd, MA, MBA
Res. Support Specialist, Off of Res. and Creative
Scholarship
Andrews University