



# PROGRAM



## **COVID-19 Educational Workshop**

**May 17, 2022**  
**6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

**Registration**  
**5:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.**

### ***In Person and Virtual Event***

**In Person Location**  
**Tuskegee Municipal Complex**  
*101 Fonville Street*  
**Tuskegee, Alabama 36083-0687**



**Lawrence F. "Tony" Haygood, Jr., MBA  
Mayor  
City of Tuskegee**



Greetings, City of Tuskegee!

Welcome to the *Advancing Health Literacy* Grant's educational workshop, **Yes, We Can Defeat COVID-19!** We are very excited and in great anticipation about this evening's presentations.

A special thank you to the event chair and lead organizer, Dr. Ehsan Abdalla, of the Tuskegee University *Advancing Health Literacy* Grant Project Consultant team; Co-Chairman, Kim R. Ortiz, Project Director, City of Tuskegee's *Advancing Health Literacy* Grant for her steady and consistent efforts, in support of the Chair; and Mr. William Scott and the Tristatz, LLC consulting team; and all our Grant partners. Thanks to this evening's guest presenters, Dr. A. Delores Alexander and Dr. Cheryl Davis.

We look forward to this evening's beneficial and informative outreach program.

Sincerely,

Lawrence F. "Tony" Haygood, Jr., MBA  
Mayor

**Ehsan Abdalla DVM, MSc (Hons) (Vet PATH), MSc & PhD  
(Epidemiology and Risk Analysis)  
Assistant Professor of Public Health/Director of Analytics Department of  
Graduate Public Health, College of Veterinary Medicine  
Tuskegee University**



On behalf of the organizing committee, I would like to welcome you to this COVID-19 Educational Workshop which is sponsored by the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The theme for this workshop is “YES WE CAN DEFEAT COVID-19!” We recognize the need and expect the people who are living in Macon County in Alabama to voluntarily and actively participate in a research study designed to better understand that COVID-19 can kill you, COVID-19 vaccines are effective at preventing you from getting sick. COVID-19 vaccines are highly effective at preventing severe illness, hospitalizations, and death. Being vaccinated is the best way to slow the spread of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. The collection and analysis of this data may lead to new strategies for advancing health literacy on COVID-19 vaccine confidence and uptake to reduce and/or eliminate the burden of the disease in Macon County in the state of Alabama and beyond. The annual workshop provides a platform to raise awareness of issues linked to health disparities in the Black Belt Counties of Alabama. At the Tuskegee University, experts lead the development of the BBC pandemic data-to-action platform that integrates modern technology, data analytics and national partners to help the BBC detect, prevent and mitigate pandemic threats to achieve containment as quickly as possible.

More specifically, our speakers will provide expert and current knowledge on the cause, risk factors, laboratory testing, vaccination and treatment options for COVID-19. We are also delighted to have Lawrence F. "Tony" Haygood, Jr., Mayor. Mayor Haygood and Mr. Derrick Swanson, MSM, City Manager who will welcome and greet our participants and encourage them to attend and participate in this kind of event to learn more about the facts of COVID-19. We are honored to have Deloris Alexander, PhD, a tenured Professor at Tuskegee University (TU) with triple faculty appointments in the College of Agriculture, Environment and Nutrition Sciences (CAENS), the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), and the College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM). Dr. Alexander will provide us with her expert knowledge and insight about “The COVID-19 Pandemic: Pulling Yourself Up by Your Bootstraps”. We are also delighted to have Dr. Cheryl G. Davis, DHA, Consulting Laboratory Manager, THDDC COVID-19 LAB, Interim Executive Director, TAHEC will also provide us with her expert knowledge and insight about “How we can Beat COVID-19?”

We are very excited about the program of the workshop and we would like to thank our outreach coordinators, and consultants from Tristatz, LLC and consultants from Tuskegee University. We would also like to thank all of you for taking time out of your busy schedules to participate in this noble and worthwhile endeavor. This workshop is designed in such a way that the future directions include more research and evaluation to better pinpoint community benefits, and identify the impact of combined computational epidemiology, risk analysis and GIS resources to map access to health care facilities that offer laboratory testing, vaccination and treatment options to reduce related health disparities.

Once again, we thank you for accepting our invitations and participation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ehsan Abdalla', written over a horizontal line.

Ehsan Abdalla, DVM, MS, PhD, Chair

**Kim R. Ortiz, Ed.S, M.P.A, M.A.**  
**Project Director for the U.S. Department of Health and Human  
Services' *Advancing Health Literacy (AHL)* Grant**  
**Community Development Grants Coordinator**  
**City of Tuskegee, Alabama**



Prior to working for the City, Ms. Ortiz was a Freshman Orientation instructor and held administrative positions in Continuing Education, Cooperative Extension, and Student Life at Tuskegee University (Tuskegee, Alabama). Additionally, at Tuskegee University, Ms. Ortiz served as the primary advisor to Mr. and Miss Tuskegee University and Court; Student Government Association Elections Committee; National Pan-Hellenic Council; and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Gamma Kappa Chapter.

The Mobile, Alabama, native is a *Cum Laude* graduate of Tuskegee University, with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Finance and a minor in Economics. Ms. Ortiz earned a Master of Arts Degree in Counseling and Human Development, with a concentration in School Counseling, from Clark Atlanta University (Atlanta, Georgia) and a Master of Public Administration degree, with a concentration in Public Human Resource Management, from Troy University (Troy Alabama). Ms. Ortiz earned a post-Master's Educational Specialist Degree in Counseling from Old Dominion University (Norfolk, Virginia). While matriculating at ODU, she co-authored the journal article, "Program Evaluation in Human Service Education: Applying a Chain of Objectives Model" published in Human Service Education.

Further, Kim R. Ortiz is a graduate of the General Electric Capital Mortgage Corporation Leadership Development Program (Raleigh, North Carolina) and Tuskegee University's Leadership Macon County (Alabama) Class II. Ms. Ortiz completed additional professional development in leadership from the Yale University Child Study Center School Development Program (New Haven, Connecticut) and the Troy University Continuing Education Program (Troy, Alabama). In 2021, she earned her Local Government Professional Management Certificate from the Alabama City/County Management Association.

Professionally and academically, Kim R. Ortiz is a member of Alpha Kappa Mu National Honor Society; Delta Mu Delta International Honor Society in Business; Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities; The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi; Pi Alpha Alpha—The Global Honor Society for Public Affairs and Administration; Golden Key International Honour Society; and Chi Sigma Iota Counseling Academic and Professional Honor Society International. Ms. Ortiz was awarded the Excellence in Service to Students Award by the Tuskegee University Chapter of the National Society of Leadership and Success—Sigma Alpha Pi.

For leisure, Kim R. Ortiz thoroughly enjoys reading, music, live theatre, and the art of couture. An adventurer at heart; her absolute favorite pastimes are traveling and sampling cuisines and sweets, especially chocolates.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kim R. Ortiz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kim R. Ortiz, Ed.S, M.P.A, M.A., Co-Chair



# COVID-19 EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOP

Theme: **“YES WE CAN DEFEAT COVID-19!”**

**Tuesday, May 17, 2022**  
**In Person and Virtual Event**

5:30 - 6:00 p.m.  
6:00 – 6:03 p.m.

## REGISTRATION

Workshop Overview-Why COVID-19 Education Is Important?

**Kim R. Ortiz**, Ed.S, M.P.A, M.A., Program Co-chair,  
**Coordinator, Community Development Grants**  
**Moderator**  
**Ms. Kim R. Ortiz**

6:03 – 6:05 p.m.

## Prayer/Meditation

**Chief J.B. Walker** (Retired, Tuskegee Police Department)

6:05 – 6:10 p.m.

## Welcome and Greetings

**Ehsan Abdalla**, DVM, MSc (Hons) (Vet PATH), MSc & PhD (Epidemiology and Risk Analysis),  
Assistant Professor & Director of Analytics, Department of Graduate Public Health, Tuskegee  
University, Program Chair

6:10 – 6:25 p.m.

**Mayor Lawrence F. "Tony" Haygood, Jr., MBA**

6:25 – 6:30 p.m.

**Mr. Derrick Swanson**, MSM, City Manager

6:30 – 7:00 p.m.

## Keynote Speaker:

**A. Delores Alexander**, Ph.D.

Director, Integrative Biosciences PhD Program, Professor,  
Department of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (College of Agriculture, Environment,  
and Nutrition Sci.) Department of Biology (College of Arts and Sciences)  
Department of Pathobiology (College of Veterinary Medicine)  
Topic: The COVID-19 Pandemic: Pulling Yourself Up by Your Bootstraps

7:00 – 7:30 p.m.

**Cheryl G. Davis**, DHA

Consulting Laboratory Manager, THDDC COVID-19 LAB  
Interim Executive Director, TAHEC

Topic: AHL COVID-19 educational workshop “Yes, We Can Beat COVID-19!”

7:30 – 7:55 p.m.

## Administration of Survey

**Ehsan Abdalla**, Program Chair

**Kim R. Ortiz**, Program Co-chair

## Committee Members:

Dorothy W. Webber, Lead Outreach Coordinator, Advancing Health Literacy Grant

David Lunn, Jr., Outreach Coordinator, Advancing Health Literacy Grant

Lula Wright, Consultant, Tristatz, LLC

Wendy Bruce, Consultant, Tristatz, LLC

7:55 – 8:00 p.m.

Wrap-up/Closing Remarks/Adjournment

**Lawrence F. "Tony" Haygood, Jr., Mayor**

**Deloris Alexander, PhD, a Tenured Professor  
with Triple Faculty Appointments in the College of  
Agriculture, Environment and Nutrition Sciences (CAENS),  
the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), and the College of  
Veterinary Medicine (CVM)  
Tuskegee University**



Dr. Deloris is a native of Tuskegee, AL and holds degrees from Alabama State University (BS in Biology; minor in chemistry), Tuskegee University (MS in Environmental Science), Meharry Medical College (PhD in Biomedical Sciences), and post-doctoral experience from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (Cancer Genetics, Host immunity). She is also certified as a Bioethics Trainer (NIH). Most recently, Dr. Alexander has been leading the Community Engagement subcommittee of TU's Community Health Task Force in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. She is also one of three PI's of the Alabama Department of Public Health COVID Vaccination and Education Grant to TU.

Since arriving at TU as faculty in 2005, Dr. Alexander has been intimately involved in the launching of Tuskegee's PhD Program in Integrative Biosciences (IBS), which seeks to address the lack of well-trained, graduate-level, U.S. scientists. The IBS PhD program has provided a mechanism for fostering a more intensive biomedical research and training atmosphere and has produced more than 47 PhD holders and supported an equal number of MS degree graduates in the past 10 years. Dr. Alexander has many research interests, all related to infectious diseases. She is an avid researcher who has mentored more than 190 undergraduate and graduate students from various disciplines. In 2015 and 2016 she was recognized as a White House Champion of Change by the White House Initiatives for HBCUs Office. She currently uses her lab to understand how natural products might prove beneficial in the fight against diseases. Dr. Alexander, who served as the Deputy Director for Research for Tuskegee University's Health Disparities Institute for Research and Education, has been actively involved in research that seeks to reduce health disparities in the Alabama Black Belt Counties.

Moreover, Dr. Alexander has been a member of numerous grant proposal writing teams, which have coordinately been awarded millions of dollars from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, the National Institutes of Health, the USDA/NIFA, and the National Science Foundation. These awards have supported the education and research of hundreds of high school, undergraduate, and graduate students. Dr. Alexander is teaches more than a dozen courses each year, including bioethics, parasitology, epidemiology, molecular biology and environmental health sciences. She has been a reviewer for NSF, HHMI, NOAA, the USDA and several book publishers. She is also a member of the American Society for Microbiology (ASM), the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR), the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA), and Sigma Xi. She also sings, writes short stories, assembles genealogies for African-American families and, occasionally, takes a day off to enjoy a good clearance sale. She is a native of Tuskegee, AL and is a product of the Tuskegee Public School System.

**Cheryl G. Davis, DHA**  
**Consulting Laboratory Manager, THDDC COVID-19 LAB**  
**Interim Executive Director, TAHEC**



Dr. Cheryl G. Davis is an accomplished Senior Executive, Consultant, and Board Member with more than 30 years of success across the healthcare and higher education industries. Leveraging extensive experience with curriculum development and grant writing, she is a valuable advisor for an organization seeking guidance for assistance with accreditation issues and organizational planning. Her broad areas of expertise include clinical laboratory, leadership, healthcare consulting, strategic planning, higher education, biosafety, and business planning.

Current leadership positions include CG Davis Consulting, Tuskegee Area Health Education Center and Tuskegee University Health Disparities Diagnostics COVID-19 Lab with past positions with Tuskegee University and The Gift of Life Foundation. Board memberships include Medical Advocacy and Outreach of Alabama, Inc. and Alabama 4-H Foundation. In addition, Cheryl has served on committees with the following agencies, National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences, Association of Minority Health Professions Schools, and River Region United Way.

# Acknowledgements

## Special Thanks!

**Lawrence F. "Tony" Haygood, Jr.**, Mayor

**Derrick Swanson**, City Manager

**Kim R. Ortiz**, Project Director, Advancing Health Literacy Grant

**Dorothy W. Webber**, Lead Outreach Coordinator, Advancing Health Literacy Grant

**David Lunn, Jr.**, Outreach Coordinator, Advancing Health Literacy Grant

**Clayton Yates**, PhD, Professor, Consultant, Tuskegee University

**Ehsan Abdalla**, PhD, Assistant Professor, Consultant Tuskegee University

**Crystal James**, JD, Interim Vice-President External Affairs & General Counsel,  
Consultant, Tuskegee University

**Stephen Sodeke**, PhD, Professor, Consultant, Tuskegee University

**Lloyd Webb**, DVM, MPH, Professor, Consultant, Tuskegee University

**Melvena Wilson**, DrPH, Assistant Professor, Consultant, Tuskegee University

**William Scott**, Managing Partner & Senior Consultant, Tristatz, LLC

**Candy Capel**, Consultant, Tristatz, LLC

**Lula Wright**, Consultant, Tristatz, LLC

**Wendy Bruce**, Consultant, Tristatz, LLC

**Chief J.B. Walker** (Retired, Tuskegee Police Department)

**Mary Brooks**, Alabama Comprehensive Cancer Control Coalition, Access to Care Committee Chair,  
Independent Consultant Community Health Education Specialist

**Samina Akhter**, Assistant Director of Analytics & Career Placement, Certified  
Career Service Provider, DGPH, Tuskegee University

**Brian Wallace**, Expert digital media professional, Owner of Jetty Trip Media

## **Special Thanks to Our Sponsor**

The U. S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)  
**COVID-19 Educational Workshop Committee**

Ehsan Abdalla, Program Chair

Kim R. Ortiz, Program Co-Chair





COUNTER THE COVID-19 "INFODEMIC"

# Why facts matter?



With facts, we are able to make informed decisions.

Not sure if a statement related to COVID-19 is a fact?

Check if it's accompanied with credible links, references, sources, the author's name, etc.



## COVID-19 and Education.....



**TAHLG**  
Tuskegee Advancing Health Literacy Grant

2022

Sponsored by:

City of Tuskegee: Advancing Health Literacy to Enhance Equitable Community Responses to COVID-19 in Alabama's Black Belt.

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