

Whole Community Health Initiative

March 2022

Newsletter

Dr. Jim Johnson joined Governor at NC A&T Press Conference

Dr. Johnson joined Governor Cooper for a press event at NC A&T announcing an executive order detailing next steps on path to clean energy and an equitable economy for all North Carolinians. Johnson attended in his role as chairman of the NC Environmental Justice and Equity Advisory Board and as a member of the Governor's Andrea Harris task force on social, economic and environmental equity.

"The environmental justice provisions that are included in the Executive Order go a long way toward ensuring that the state can achieve the exemplary public health equity goals. I am pleased that it will increase the likelihood that all North Carolinians are able to live in vibrant communities and pursue employment in workplaces free of environmental risks," said Dr. James H. Johnson, Jr., DEQ Secretary's Environmental Justice and Equity Board Chair.

Read more about the Executive Order [here](#).

Join Us: Rural Center Summit

Dr. Jim Johnson and Jeanne Bonds will present at the Rural Center Summit on March 22nd in Raleigh, North Carolina.

"The world around us is changing rapidly, and the stakes are high to ensure that our rural leaders have access to, and are equipped with the tools and resources to work towards resiliency for the future. How can we use what we've lived through over the last few years to think differently about the future? How do we lean into our similarities and differences to work together towards an innovative and resilient future?" -Rural Center

[Register for this event](#), rural partners!

News & Publications

Leveraging the American Rescue Plan for Minority Owned Businesses

This recent opinion editorial in the Fayetteville Observer encourages the governor to use American Rescue Plan funding to build equity by boosting minority owned businesses. Read the article [here](#).

Urgently Needed: Equity Tools to Navigate Demographic Gale-Force Wind Gusts

Demographic disruptors could prevent North Carolina from reaching public health goals. Outlined here are policy prescriptions and strategic investments to turn these disruptors into opportunities. Read more [here](#).

Addressing Our Rural Childcare Crisis

The pandemic has underscored the relationship between our childcare systems and our nation's economic and social health. A North Carolina project looks at how we need to improve. Read our Daily Yonder article [here](#).