



COMMUNITY-ENGAGED LEARNING

WESTERN TIDEWATER UNITED

UNDERSTANDING, IMPROVING, & TRACKING DIABETES IN WESTERN TIDEWATER

PATHWAY: HEALTH EQUITY

Initiative Description

Western Tidewater UNITED is a clinical initiative that focuses on developing educational and community outreach programs aimed to help identify diabetic and pre-diabetic people. The students will then participate in an interventional program that helps diabetic people get support, behavioral and clinical intervention by imputing data and tracking patients' health outcomes.

Annual Student Activities

- Participate in the development of the community outreach and educational programs.
- Coordinate and participate in diabetic screenings, assisting in consenting participants and obtaining demographic and clinical data.
- Participate in patient education and behavioral support for both subprojects.
- Assist with data entry and review of medical records to track outcomes.

Community Outcomes/Results

- ↓ Reduce the prevalence of diabetes and prediabetes and its complications in Western Tidewater
- ↓ Reduce ER visits and hospital admission by providing diabetes educational programs and care coordination

Facilitators

Abigail McMillan MS, EP-C

Community Partners

- Sentara OBICI
- Western Tidewater Diabetes Coalition

The Need

- The rates of diabetes and related comorbidities are disproportionately high in Western Tidewater (WT) compared with the rest of Virginia, as indicated by the SOH Community Needs Assessment from 2019.
- WT has a large African American population, a significant older adult (65+) population, high rates of undereducation and obesity.
- Rates of hospitalization due to diabetes are significantly increased in WT when compared with Virginia.
- Determining impactful methods for reducing the prevalence of diabetes, caring for those with diabetes, and reducing rates of both hospitalization and death from diabetes and its comorbid conditions will significantly impact healthcare costs and the use of healthcare resources.