

## News

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LinCS 2 Durham provides opportunities for members of Black communities in Durham, North Carolina and scientists in the region to learn and work together to find new ways to prevent HIV. Read on to find out what's happening.

## Upcoming Events and Announcements

### You're Invited!

**What: World AIDS Day at the Hayti Heritage Center**

Join LinCS 2 Durham at the historic Hayti Heritage Center, as we recognize and honor those living with HIV and AIDS. There will be food, entertainment, and testimonials. You can also create a square for a community memorial quilt. FHI and UNC Center for AIDS Research are among the sponsors, along with many other local organizations and projects, such as the Durham County Health Department, Alliance of AIDS Services – Carolina, and CAARE, Inc. You can read more about this event on the [Hayti Heritage Center](#) homepage.

**When: December 1, 2009**

**6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**

**Where: Hayti Heritage Center**

**804 Old Fayetteville Street  
Durham, NC 27701**

**What: Collaborative Council meeting**

Join other interested community members as we discuss how LinCS 2 Durham can best work with local residents throughout the course of the project. For more information on this meeting, please contact Randy Rogers at (919) 560-7675

**When: December 7, 2009**

**6 – 8 p.m.**

**Where: Durham Public Library-Main Branch Auditorium**

**300 North Roxboro Street  
Durham, NC 27701**

## Staff Profile



*Christopher Reed presents during a LinCS 2 Durham training session. (Photo by Lisa Marie Albert)*

Christopher Reed is a research assistant with LinCS 2 Durham. He's pursuing a master's degree at North Carolina Central University in general psychology. His thesis focuses on actual risk versus the perceived risk of sexually transmitted infections in undergraduate and graduate populations. Christopher is from Durham, and says he hopes that, through education and empowerment, the LinCS 2 Durham project can produce knowledge that will help to stop the spread of HIV.

## Collaborative Council meets for the second time

The LinCS 2 Durham Collaborative Council (formerly the Community Advisory Board) met for the second time on October 26<sup>th</sup>. The Collaborative Council's members are community stakeholders—a growing number of people who have a commitment to Durham and who would like to provide input into the development of the LinCS project.

During the meeting, Collaborative Council members chose the group's new name. They also began developing goals and guidelines for Council activities, by dividing into three groups for brainstorming sessions. Some of the ideas that emerged will be adopted later as guiding principles for the Council. Randy Rogers, an education specialist from the Durham County Health Department who facilitated the meeting, believes that the group is going strong. "I think we're off to a remarkable start. I'm really looking forward to seeing what the guiding principles will be. There's been a lot of energy from members and I hope we keep up the same momentum."

## **HIV and Black America in the News**

The LinCS 2 Durham team was saddened to hear of the passing of Patricia Elliot Riley Amaechi, a well-known and long-time respected voice in the Durham HIV/AIDS community. Pat was the co-founder and Executive Director for Healing at CAARE, Inc., a community based organization in Durham serving people with complex medical conditions, including HIV/AIDS. Donations can be made in Pat's name to CAARE, Inc. at 214 Broadway Street, Durham, NC 27701.

### **Local leadership changes at HIV/STD Prevention and Care**

Jacqueline Clymore, former head of the Alliance of AIDS Services-Carolina, has recently been hired to lead the HIV/STD Prevention and Care branch of the North Carolina Division of Public Health, a state government agency. Clymore says she'll be working to secure more resources to fight HIV and syphilis. Click here to read an interview with her in the [News & Observer](#).

### **HIV-AIDS in DC**

Religion & Ethics NewsWeekly, a program aired on the Public Broadcasting System (PBS), recently covered the responses to HIV-AIDS of several church ministries in Washington, DC. HIV infection rates are higher there than in some parts of West Africa. The reporter interviewed ministers in the District whose congregations are actively involved with people infected with HIV, or whose congregations include many HIV-positive members. One church offers HIV testing. The story featured two prominent Black preachers who are encouraging their colleagues to talk openly about HIV and other sexually transmitted infections. You can watch the program or read the transcript on the [PBS website](#).

### **African American HIV University receives federal grant**

The Black AIDS Institute has received a grant from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to fund the African American HIV University Community Mobilization College (AAHU). The AAHU is a training and internship fellowship program that focuses on strengthening individual and organizational capacity to tackle HIV. The AAHU has graduated more than 50 fellows since 2000. You can read more [here](#).

### **Black teenage girls at highest risk for chlamydia, gonorrhea**

Young Black women, ages 15 to 19, have the highest rates of chlamydia and gonorrhea in the United States. Young Black women, ages 20 to 24, have the second highest rates. You can read more statistics about sexually transmitted infections in this [U.S. News & World Report](#) article.

## **Black and Latino women discuss HIV**

A group of Black and Latino women gathered to discuss HIV in their communities at the kick-off for a conference called “Breaking the Silence.” They attended the conference to learn about self-care and how they can form healthy relationships with their male partners. Although one in four women in the U.S. is Black or Latino, four out of five people infected with HIV are Black or Latino, said Nina Harawa, one of the organizers. You can read more [here](#).

## **Rochester tackles HIV**

The city of Rochester, NY is experiencing a much higher rate of HIV infection among Blacks and Latinos than among Whites. To address this, social service agencies, health agencies, and faith organizations have joined forces to remind the public how serious and pervasive HIV is. The Men of Color Health Awareness Center is one such organization working to support HIV counseling and testing. You can learn more in this article from the [Rochester City Newspaper](#).

## **Real Talk!**

### **Be a part of the LinCS 2 Durham project**

Join the conversation about ways to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS in Durham’s Black communities. Please contact Natalie Eley, the LinCS 2 Durham study coordinator, to request information about the LinCS 2 Durham project and find out how to participate.

You’re also invited to share your knowledge with the LinCS 2 Durham project team. Tell us what you think about this effort. If you come across something interesting in the news related to HIV, send it to us. And let us know about local events that would be good opportunities to spread the word about LinCS 2 Durham. We thank you for your interest and help!

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## Contribute to the LinCS 2 Durham newsletter

Our purpose with this newsletter is to keep you informed about the project's many activities and accomplishments. The newsletter is also a forum for information that isn't part of the project but related to it:

- Articles from the news
- Community events with an HIV message
- Stories of the impact of HIV on you, your family, friends, and neighbors
- Suggestions to improve support for people living with HIV/AIDS and their caregivers
- Your ideas about ways to stop the spread of HIV in Durham

You deserve credit for your contributions to the newsletter. However, if you prefer to contribute confidentially, just let us know. In that case we won't identify you as the source and we'll guard your anonymity.

The LinCS 2 Durham newsletter is a work in progress. We'd like to know what you think of it, so we can make it better and better.

E-mail us at [lincs2durham@fhi.org](mailto:lincs2durham@fhi.org).