



**News**

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**Volume 2**

**Issue 1**

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:** Collaborative Council retreat

**When:** January 30, 2010,  
10 AM- 2 PM

**Where:** Hayti Heritage Center  
804 Old Fayetteville Road  
Durham, NC 27701

**Details:** The Collaborative Council retreat will be an opportunity for CC members to come together to further define their guiding principles and consensus process and to participate in a training session on research literacy.

The LinCS 2 Durham [website](#) and [Facebook](#) page are now live!

## [Staff Profile](#)



*Kimberly Gibson Hooks (Photo by Lisa Marie Albert).*

Kimberly Gibson Hooks is a LinCS 2 Durham research assistant. She is from Wilson, North Carolina, and is a full-time student at North Carolina Central University, where she is pursuing a degree in public health education. Kimberly has a particular interest in health disparities and their causes.

Kimberly is excited to be working on LinCS 2 Durham, and says that tackling the worldwide epidemic of HIV here in Durham gives her "the opportunity to create relationships with community members who share my interest in preventing HIV/AIDS."

## Collaborative Council works to refine their guiding principles

The LinCS 2 Durham Collaborative Council met on a chilly evening in December. About 20 people attended the meeting, held at the Durham County Public Library. The meeting lasted roughly two hours. Randy Rogers, Durham County Health Department health education specialist, facilitated the meeting.

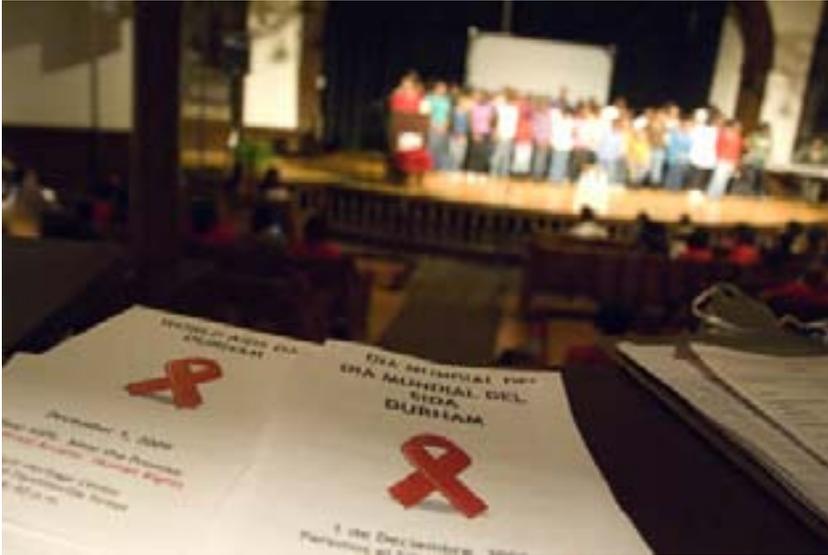
Council members watched a brief video created by LinCS 2 Durham staff member Lisa Albert to demonstrate why photographs are taken at meetings. Following the video presentation, Lisa received lots of positive feedback on her artistic ability to capture the essence of the Collaborative Council's meetings. Photographs of meetings and events can serve many purposes, such as documenting moments in the project's history, showing the work involved in specific initiatives, and encouraging community participation in LinCS 2 Durham. No pictures are taken without the consent of the people in them. Lisa, an experienced photographer, has been capturing images of many LinCS 2 Durham activities. These will help to serve as an archive of the project's evolution.



*Randy Rogers and Allison Winfield help develop the guiding principles during a recent Collaborative Council meeting. (Photo by Lisa Marie Albert)*

Council members also continued their work refining the group's guiding principles, which will govern future meetings and activities. A lively and thoughtful discussion yielded seven principles: among them, individual respect, the importance of clear communication and transparency, and the shared mission of promoting education and knowledge about HIV prevention and LinCS 2 Durham. The guiding principles are still being refined and clarified, but the Collaborative Council is off to a strong start!

## World AIDS Day event a huge success



*Programs at the World AIDS Day event in Durham's Hayti Heritage Center. (Photo by Lisa Marie Albert)*

On December 1, 2009, people around the world gathered to observe World AIDS Day, a global event dedicated to raising awareness about HIV and AIDS. In Durham, an event was hosted at the Hayti Heritage Center. Singers, dancers, and health professionals shared the stage with people infected with or affected by HIV, as they shared stories, testimonies, information about HIV, and how it can be prevented. Randy Rogers, a LinCS 2 Durham staff member and health education specialist at the Durham County Health Department, played a huge role in organizing the event at Hayti, and says that it went fantastically well! Family Health International and the UNC Center for AIDS Research jointly covered the costs of tee-shirts for the event.



*Students from North Carolina Central University created posters which were displayed at the Hayti Heritage Center during the World AIDS Day celebration. (Photo by Lisa Marie Albert)*

## [HIV and Black America in the News](#)

### **National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day**

National Black HIV/AIDS day is February 7<sup>th</sup>! NBHAAD was organized in 1999. It is a day dedicated to nationwide HIV education, testing, and treatment. You can read more about NBHAAD, and find out about local events at this [Web site](#).

### **Upcoming Conference: HIV Research Catalyst Forum**

The **HIV Research Catalyst Forum: Treatment, Prevention, Advocacy** (Formerly North American Treatment Action Forum-NATAF) is a unique conference focusing on community advocacy in HIV treatment and prevention research. From identifying research priorities to overcoming research barriers, HIV advocates have driven groundbreaking discoveries that have changed the course of this relentless epidemic. 150 full scholarships will be offered for this conference. The closing deadline for scholarships is **February 19<sup>th</sup>**. You can read more about it on their [website](#).

### **Separating HIV facts from fiction**

A University of Chicago researcher has found that risky sexual behavior often coincides with disbelief in risk factors and statistics concerning HIV and AIDS. The [Chicago Tribune](#) reports on the research of Dexter Voisin, a former social worker and counselor on the university's faculty, who conducted focus groups in Chicago with Black, male youths, aged 14 to 18. He found that they were more likely to engage in risky sexual behavior if they did not believe statistics about HIV infections and young Black men.

### **Funding crisis for HIV care and prevention**

Oakland, CA, like many U.S. cities, has seen its budget for HIV prevention and care activities cut. The [Bay Area Reporter](#) states that Black Americans make up only 12.2 percent of the population of Alameda County (which includes Oakland), but they account for 44.6 percent of HIV infections. Health workers are examining the disparities between HIV rates for different races, and whether prevention messages are targeted, relevant, and culturally appropriate.

### **Focus on Black women in National AIDS Strategy**

A coalition of Black women has called on President Obama to include provisions focusing on Black women in his administration's new National HIV/AIDS Strategy, the [St. Louis American](#) reports. The coalition has several policy recommendations, among them updating the disease surveillance system and creating a marketing initiative aimed solely at Black women.

### **Seeing the world as it could be**

Byron Williams writes about the recent, grim statistics from the Centers for Disease

Control showing that Black Americans account for 45 percent of new HIV infections annually. In his piece in the [San Jose Mercury News](#), he writes that accepting HIV as a fact of life is unacceptable, and that younger generations must not become complacent or fatalistic.

## **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.

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