



# CHBS Canopy

Inclusive Excellence

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## Health Equity in a Time of Food Insecurity

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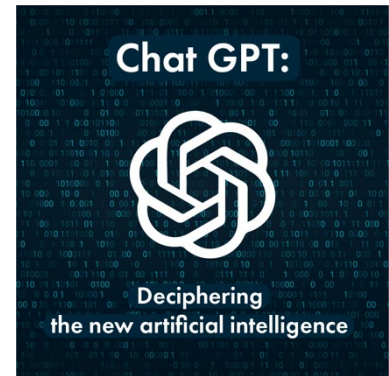
Nutrition insecurity is one of the greatest public health threats in the US. With the strength of its academic and non-profit industries, Virginia is poised to address nutrition security and health equity from a systems-level perspective. Collaboration between JMU and the Federation of Virginia Food Banks began in 2015 with the development of the Nourish technology involving JMU faculty, Dr. Michelle Hesse (Health Professions), Mr. David Wang (SMAD), Mr. Carey Cole (formally COB) and Dr. Andrew Peachey (Health Sciences), JMU students and Blue Ridge Area Food Bank - a member of the Federation. **Nourish** was implemented at Blue Ridge in 2019 and operationalizes the Robert Wood Johnson's Healthy Eating Research Guidelines (HER),<sup>4</sup> to rank the nutritional quality of food bank foods using a stoplight hierarchy. Integrated with the food bank's inventory management system, Nourish saves staff time and removes the guesswork from food procurement decisions when prioritizing nutrition; pairs data with choices at food pantries- *partners of food banks who directly distribute food*- to help neighbors make food decisions for their households; and tracks benchmarks to demonstrate the health investments food banks are making in their community.

In 2022, The Federation of VA Food Banks established a **Health Equity Plan**. The Plan centers neighbor experience in decision-making and focuses on supporting capacity-building efforts to prioritize access to nutritious and culturally responsive food, strengthening cross-sector partnerships, and creating a system that supports a more equitable and just society. With support from Feeding America, Dr. Michelle Hesse continues to work with the Federation to scale the Nourish technology to the remaining 6 food banks. Furthermore, Dr. Hesse recently received a 4-VA Grant through JMU, and in partnership with the Federation and Virginia Cooperative Extension to establish the educational architecture and resources within a learning management system to facilitate the implementation of a health food pantry model and practices within Virginia's food pantries. Together these tactics will help the Federation achieve its collective impact goals and provide dignified health and nutrition services to support our neighbors in need.



## CHAT GPT is here!

If you are not tech-savvy, this announcement may not seem relevant. The introductory session on CHAT GPT and other emerging Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies occurred last week as part of our Professional Learning Community (PLC) sessions. Special thanks to the faculty who attended this late-term opportunity. The JMU libraries' professionals supported the session, led by Dr. J. Christie Liu, who also led the development of the Learning Access Through Universal Design (LAUD) self-paced Canvas page. The focus of the session was on how these tools might be helpful for some students was introduced and how faculty might evaluate student efforts in light of these tools. The team shared a variety of tools showing the basics of how they worked, discussed other emerging tools like DALL E, and briefly addressed ethical considerations in teaching and assignment generation.



The notion that AI “may” impact higher education is over. It is here and it is real. Students will be using it more. Faculty may use it and should help students to use it better. The JMU Libraries' team will be conducting another session at the CFI May Symposium – *Artificial Intelligence, Equity-Driven Assignments, & Evolving Assessment Technologies*. Get ready!

## What's Next for CHBS Inclusive Excellence Efforts?

The CHBS community should be very proud of their IE efforts over the last three years. We have engaged in capacity building with more community members working to promote a greater sense of belonging for students, staff, and faculty. Units are using equity tools to assess their curriculums, while faculty are using these tools to assess their courses and course materials. Units have developed plans and are actualizing positive changes, along with unit-level IE committees and student-focused affinity groups/committees. While these have not been without bumps in the road, we are learning to navigate common pitfalls, leaning into each other for shared problem-solving.

What's next? Here is a partial list for next year:

- All academic units at JMU are in the process of aligning with the [Academic Affairs Strategic Goals and Objectives](#). CHBS is no exception to this process and is actively engaged. Relevant to our IE efforts, we seek to align specifically Strategic Goal 2
- Continued development of research efforts that inform our process [CHBS Compositional Diversity Research utilizing university research & CHBS Identity Research]
- Developing staff-focused PLC sessions that are responsive to staff time restraints for participation
- Continued development of supportive PLC sessions [Anticipating sessions on International Hiring, Faculty Retention, International Student Support, etc.]
- Research to investigate faculty perceptions of testing accommodations and coordination [Coordinated by CHBS Spaces Taskforce]
- Development of IE Student Pipeline Project to intentionally engage community youth in college professions and opportunities
- The CHBS LEAD Academy returns for a year-long opportunity for college members to explore leadership

*What role can you play?* You may engage in your courses or research, within your unit's IE faculty or student group, or at the college level on one of the six domains for change taskforce or join an IE ad hoc committee.

## EVENTS

### For Staff – From JMU Talent Development

Session
<a href="#">Insider-Outsider Dynamics of Inclusion</a> Wednesday, May 3, 2023 1:30 – 3:30 PM

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### For Faculty -

#### “clusterluck” A Documentary Screening and Conversation with Dr. Candace Hall

May 2, 4:00 pm / CHBS 5040

- The organizers invite JMU faculty, departmental leadership, staff, and administrators to [view the screening and participate in a Q&A](#) about faculty recruitment and retention. This event is offered in collaboration with the African, African American, and Diaspora Studies Center, Center for Faculty Innovation, Office of Faculty Affairs and Curriculum, Office of the Associate Provost for Inclusive Strategies and Equity Initiatives, and Sisters in Session. [View the trailer](#).

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### CFI, May Symposium

Check out some of the workshop titles. Blue are Zoom sessions.

- Empowering Voices of Asian Pacific Islander and Desi Americans (APIDA) (Panel Discussion)
- Assisted Grading and Inclusive Teaching: Better Together (Workshop)
- Fight the BURNout: Development of a Student Guided Wellness Curriculum (Scholarly Talk)
- Envisioning Just Futures: Integrating Science and the Humanities (Online Workshop) -
- Evidence-based Advocacy Module for First-year Student Projects (Online Workshop)
- Straddling Class in the Academy – Keynote Speaker
- Citation Needed: Amplifying Voices in Our Scholarship and Syllabi (Scholarly Talk)
- Equity-Flagged Sections in General Education: How to Participate (Online Roundtable)
  - What’s Your Class Story? Leading through a Class Lens

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CHBS Canopy will return next fall. Thank you for reading and learning together!

