



## REYSE COLLABORATORY

AT CLEMSON® UNIVERSITY  
FOR THE STUDY OF RACE, ETHNICITY, YOUTH & SOCIAL EQUITY

CO-NSO-OVRS-OO-0Y (BL) — a center without walls where researchers work collectively with no regard to physical location.

# STRATEGIC PLAN

September 2020

# OVERVIEW

The **Race, Ethnicity, Youth and Social Equity (REYSE) Collaboratory** at Clemson University is an interdisciplinary group of researchers and community scholars conducting research and providing programming to improve the lives of racial and ethnic youth. Striving to achieve social equity within a youth development framework, the Collaboratory seeks to design and implement equity-centered initiatives, research, training and organizational change solutions. The Collaboratory works with researchers, students, educators, community members, scholars, policymakers, organizations and the media to ensure its resources are accessible to all, in order to make practical, usable connections between research, outcomes, policies and best practices.

## Our Mission

- *To improve the lives of racialized and ethnitized youth populations through innovation, community engagement, and knowledge exchange.*

## Our Vision

- *To be the leading center in the nation for achieving social equity by improving the quality of life of racial and ethnic youth.*

## Our PRIORITIES

Our integrated approach to youth development and social equity is built on five key strategies to mobilize people, organizations, and communities to create the change they want to see. To that end, we:

- **Advance Knowledge:** Advance the theory and research methods used to conceptualize and assess the impact of race and/or ethnicity in youth development that contributes to a more just, resilient, and equitable society.
- **Share Progress:** Serve as an Interdisciplinary Repository for scholars authoring cutting edge approaches to study social inequality and positive youth development.
- **Community Collaboration:** Collaborate with communities to build capacity and understand, document, and respond to injustices.
- **Create Dialogue:** Create an informed, sustained dialogue with a wider public audience, such as community members, scholars, policymakers, and the media about issues of race/ethnicity and social inequality as they pertain to youth development.
- **Facilitate Training & Learning:** Facilitate training and learning programs that expand the current knowledge base and build capacity among youth and adults to practice youth development and social equity at the individual, organizational and community levels.

## Our GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The REYSE Collaboratory is guided by rigorous research, the principles of community engagement, partnership and collaboration, and sustainability. The Collaboratory embodies the **Clemson R.E.A.L.** spirit of active, engaged, and respectful citizenship by providing the foundation for respectful community engagement and facilitating dialogue with a wide range of stakeholders to improve understanding of youth development concerns, priorities, and strategies. The intersection of youth and social equity is complex, requiring a range of disciplines including private and public partners to build and sustain an environment that values and promotes the development of ALL youth toward adulthood. The Collaboratory works in partnership with students, researchers, community organizations, and the public to identify needs, develop programming, and deploy collaborative initiatives. The College of CBSHS provides a rich framework for the REYSE Collaboratory to address some of society's most pressing issues while simultaneously encouraging civic-minded discourse and the creation of wide-ranging policies and practices that can improve racial/ethnic youth's lives.

- *A Right to Childhood for All*
- *Shared Power*
- *Acknowledging Systems & History of Inequity*
- *Knowledge Is Universal and Cultural*
- *Leveraging Privilege for Impact*
- *Centering Community Voices & Community Narratives*
- *Impact Leads to Change*
- *Translation Is Key to Survival of Results*



## ADVANCE KNOWLEDGE

ADVANCE THE THEORY AND RESEARCH METHODS USED TO CONCEPTUALIZE AND ASSESS THE IMPACT OF RACE/ETHNICITY IN YOUTH DEVELOPMENT THAT CONTRIBUTES TO A MORE JUST, RESILIENT AND EQUITABLE SOCIETY.

*REYSE is dedicated to the idea that evidence should drive decisions in order to address complex challenges facing racial and ethnic youth. With a focus on rigorous, innovative, and participatory research methods aimed at improving the lives of youth, we provide leadership in the science of youth development and social equity. We seek to advance a just and inclusive society through interdisciplinary engagement that is focused on improving theory and research methods critical to advance the evidence base on inequities and their contribution to developmental disparities.*

### Key strategies

- Leverage REYSE position within Clemson University to prioritize multidisciplinary research that supports youth development practice and policy
- Build applied research and evaluation program infrastructure and capacity
- Connect researchers with complementary expertise to pursue compelling opportunities in research and evaluation
- Channel funding streams to develop lasting, high impact collaborations involving REYSE researchers within Clemson University, other universities, and the local community
- Secure external research and evaluation funding to research youth development issues of mutual interest and benefit.
- Develop intramural pilot research funding opportunities on a rolling basis to support emerging research concepts aligned with REYSE priorities in Years 1-5

### Metrics

- Number of scholars
- Diversity and Quantity of research collaborations
- Publications and Grants
- Citations of REYSE scholars



## SHARE PROGRESS

SERVE AS AN INTERDISCIPLINARY REPOSITORY FOR SCHOLARS AUTHORIZING CUTTING EDGE APPROACHES TO STUDY SOCIAL INEQUALITY AND POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT.

*Youth Development practitioners across the state and the nation need access to research in formats that are useful to their work. Many REYSE projects aim to build a movement to produce and share evidence-based resources to support community members, scholars, policymakers, organizations to improve the lives of racial and ethnic youth through targeting issues of inequity. The newly created REYSE Collaboratory is supported across multiple organizations and institutions and all persons interested in race, ethnicity, youth development and social equity are encouraged to become involved.*

### Key Strategies

- Develop database of public data, measures, tools, etc., focused on specific racial/ethnic youth populations to build the capacity of researchers and practitioners to share evidence-based information clearly and effectively for decision-making
- Leverage the REYSE's location within Clemson University to disseminate high quality scientific information to support practice and policy
- Formally disseminate youth development research findings to scholars, the public, community organizations, policymakers, and other stakeholders
- Expand collaborations and improve coordination among youth-based organizations to provide high-quality programs across the state
- Support up to 2-3 Scholars to present REYSE-relevant research at regional and national meetings annually
- Implement quarterly REYSE focused research seminars, coordinating with the college and other University-based entities, to feature REYSE-aligned research, from both internal and external speakers

### Metrics

- Number of datasets added to the repository
- Number and diversity of research and evaluation activities and collaborations
- Number and diversity of disciplinary expertise of REYSE scholars
- Number of tools, measures, reports, articles, etc., added to the repository yearly
- Number of conference presentations by REYSE collaborators
- Number of seminars held



## COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

COLLABORATE WITH COMMUNITIES TO BUILD CAPACITY  
AND UNDERSTAND, DOCUMENT AND RESPOND  
TO INJUSTICES.

*Addressing the complexity of race, ethnicity, youth, and social equity issues demands diverse approaches and a strong, inclusive network of relationships. With partner organizations, we will build stronger connections by bringing together diverse audiences from a range of academic disciplines and community sectors, including private and public partners. We will build upon these strengths by expanding our multidisciplinary research portfolio and formalizing multidisciplinary linkages through participatory based research that assist communities in identifying and understanding the role of social equity in youth development while simultaneously helping build community capacity to address these challenges.*

### Key Strategies

- Formalize partnerships and expand connections within the University across its research, education, outreach, and Extension activities
- Increase collaboration and capacity building with external organizations that reflect a range of youth development sectors
- Create more opportunities for collaboration on youth development research, external funding, and student training by building upon and nurturing synergies among scholars at Clemson University and other institutions with diverse expertise in race, ethnicity, youth development and social equity subject matter, data collection methods, and dissemination strategies.
- Maintain existing and develop new community partnerships across the nation to advance REYSE agendas.
- Engage underrepresented residents in South Carolina and the nation in youth development issues and social justice activities
- Assess the participation of individuals in REYSE and note any disparate gaps in participation by specific groups of people; develop strategies to increase participation in those groups in Year 2 and 3

### Metrics

- Number and diversity of collaborations facilitated by REYSE
- Feedback from REYSE community partners



## CREATE DIALOGUE

CREATE AN INFORMED, SUSTAINED DIALOGUE WITH A WIDER PUBLIC AUDIENCE, SUCH AS COMMUNITY MEMBERS, SCHOLARS, POLICYMAKERS AND THE MEDIA ABOUT ISSUES OF RACE/ETHNICITY AND SOCIAL INEQUALITY AS THEY PERTAIN TO YOUTH DEVELOPMENT.

*Through outlets such as Our Tools and The Connector, REYSE communicates the results of cutting-edge research to both technical and lay audiences, shares training and educational opportunities, and builds a network of youth development professionals. Through the REYSE website and social media platforms highlights of the work of REYSE staff, Scholars, and graduate students will be produced for a variety of internal and external stakeholders. More specifically, The Connector will introduce evidence-based concepts, theories and research to the youth development community in a lay-friendly format and Our Tools provides information for the youth development community by focusing on current research, databases, funding and professional development opportunities, awards, and events of interest.*

### Key Strategies

- Proactively communicate the scope, activities, and value of the REYSE to key constituencies
- Amplify youth development and social equity-related research, outcomes, and activities at the university-level within Clemson and across other partner institutions and organizations
- Communicate the relevance and benefits of conducting local applied youth development and social equity research to university faculty and graduate students.
- Identify, strengthen, and build relationships between REYSE and policy stakeholders at every level (local municipality, county, state, business, non-government organizations, and community organizations) to effectively implement youth development social equity policies
- Beginning in Year 2, convene an annual, topic-based, Evidence Academy where REYSE Scholars, representing community-based organizations, practice-based research networks, faith-based organizations, academic institutions, advocacy groups, professional associations, and community leaders, convene to promote awareness and discuss implementation challenges related to recent topic-specific, youth development research findings and/or practice guidelines, or policy changes that could significantly impact the lives of racial and ethnic youth

### Metrics

- Website and social media analytics
- Media mentions
- Newsletter subscribers
- Participation in state and national policy discussions
- Funding from new sources
- Incoming requests for information
- Number of REYSE sponsored events and attendance
- Diversity of content and attendance at REYSE-sponsored events



## FACILITATE TRAINING & LEARNING

FACILITATE TRAINING AND LEARNING PROGRAMS THAT EXPAND THE CURRENT KNOWLEDGE BASE AND BUILD CAPACITY AMONG YOUTH AND ADULTS IN ORDER TO PRACTICE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL EQUITY AT THE INDIVIDUAL, ORGANIZATIONAL AND COMMUNITY LEVELS.

*A diverse range of professionals are responsible for the lives of racial and ethnic youth, including researchers and educators; out-of-school-time professionals, non-profit organizations; childcare workers, local government providers, and juvenile justice system professional. All these individuals and settings need high quality and ongoing training. REYSE is a premier provider of training, certification, and education programs for audiences within South Carolina and across the country and will provide a range of research-based workshops, curriculum, and outreach to professionals, communities, and other individuals. In addition, REYSE will facilitate the pipeline of racial and ethnic graduate students by providing student training in applied youth development research.*

### Key Strategy

- Expand and foster innovation in research-based training, certification, and Extension programs through new modes of delivery and increased coordination with external partners
- Develop an evidence-based, lay friendly, training curriculum based on best practices for youth development and social equity and general youth development education to disseminate throughout communities
- Create a hub and spoke model including Train-the-Trainer programs and community partnerships to facilitate the implementation and dissemination of evidence-based guidelines in diverse populations throughout South Carolina and the nation
- Partner with academic units to integrate youth development and social equity theories, principles, research, and application into their learning experience and academic courses.
- Create distinctive student experiences combining training in applied social justice youth development research and community engagement that helps build knowledge, expertise, and commitment to improving the lives of racial and ethnic youth.
- Create professional development opportunities for students and build relationships with potential employers
- Support the REYSE program through funding for student fellowships and research mini grants

### METRICS

- Number and diversity of training modules
- Number and diversity of training participants
- Participation by REYSE students and staff in professional development activities
- Number of students with REYSE support for research or fellowships
- Number of new lecture(s)/course(s) with multiple case study applications into relevant existing graduate classes in Year 2
- Placement rate of REYSE graduate students