

UMass Dartmouth to host FREE summit on childhood health; featuring speakers from Mass. General Hospital and Harvard University.

On Tuesday, March 3, at 9 a.m., the College of Nursing & Health Sciences will host “Impact of Adverse Childhood Events on Health Over the Lifecourse” in the Main Auditorium. The event will focus on how adversity affects health, from early childhood through adulthood.

Numerous studies have shown that adverse childhood events contribute to over 25 percent of chronic mental and medical health issues across the lifespan. Nurses working with patients and families have long recognized that childhood adversity is a major risk factor for chronic disease across a person’s life, according to Dr. Nancy Street, associate professor of community nursing.

Keynote speakers at the summit include Dr. Erin Dunn, ScD, MPH, assistant professor at Massachusetts General Hospital, Psychiatric and Neurodevelopmental Genetics Unit, Center for Genomic Medicine, and Susan Crowley, MSN, RN, Project Manager, Early Childhood Innovation Partnership, Center on The Developing Child at Harvard University.

A panel discussion on these topics will feature community nurses Allison Alberto, MSN, RN-BC, and Kathy Flanagan, MSN, RN; Seney and Karen Pounds, clinical assistant professor in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences; and nursing students Tova Bittner '20, Stephanie Brogdon '21, and Jessica O'Reilly '20.

No Small Matter, a documentary about the importance and impact of quality early childcare and education, will be shown as well.

The summit is sponsored by the Pilgrim Foundation and is free and open to the public.

Schedule:

- 9 a.m. – Welcome, Dean of the College of Nursing & Health Sciences Dr. Kimberly Christopher
- 9:10 a.m. – Keynote Address, Dr. Erin Dunn, ScD, MPH, Assistant Professor, Massachusetts General Hospital, Psychiatric and Neurodevelopmental Genetics Unit, Center for Genomic Medicine
- 10 a.m.-11:15 a.m. – Documentary presentation, No Small Matter
- 11:15 a.m. – Keynote address, Susan Crowley, RN, Project Manager, Early Childhood Innovation Partnership, Center on The Developing Child at Harvard University
- 11:45 a.m. – Panel Discussion featuring community nurses Allison Alberto, MSN, RN-BC, and Kathy Flanagan, MSN, RN; clinical assistant professors Valerie Seney and Karen Pounds; and nursing students Tova Bittner '20, Stephanie Brogdon '21, and Jessica O'Reilly '20.