

**Pat Matthews-Juarez, PhD.**  
**Chair's Report: Highlights**  
**Environmental Health Information Partnership Annual Meeting**  
**National Library of Medicine**  
**April 11, 2017**

Dr. Matthews-Juarez welcomed the members of the Environmental Health Information Partnership (EnHIP) to the annual meeting. She thanked Dr. Melvin Spann and Dr. Bailus Walker for their years of service to EnHIP. She then introduced Rueben Warren, DDS, MPH, D.Ph., and M.Div., as the new scientific consultant. Dr. Warren is the Executive Director of the National Center for Bioethics in Research and Health Care at Tuskegee University. Dr. Warren's credentials and biographic narrative are presented in the body of the report.

Dr. Matthews-Juarez focused her remarks as Chair on the board concept of evolution and transformation in the age of rapid changes in technology and precision medicine. With the rapid changes in technology, the future can be predicted by analyzing existing data using new analytics such as combinatorial analysis, spatial-temporal analytics, and other new analytics used in other fields, but can be applied to health disparities and translational research where large data sets are accessible.

She encouraged the members of EnHIP to work closely with their institutional leaders to introduce new concepts and embed these new concepts in curricular offerings. She stated that there is a growing availability of secondary data sets ranging in scope from data collection of social determinant variables, biomarkers, epigenetics, and social risk factors to data on health care cost, quality and utilization of services. These data collections allow researchers to deliver greater discoveries in science, build a diverse health professions workforce, and improve decision making in clinical care. She strongly encouraged the member institutions to work with their leadership to revise their curriculum and to develop new curriculum offerings that will be more aligned with the rapid changes that are currently discussed in the state-of-the art literature.

Dr. Matthews-Juarez concluded her report by indicating what she thought the importance of the role for Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribal Colleges, and Hispanic Serving Institutions as EnHIP members was to work with NLM to enhance science and research curriculum that embrace evidence-based technology, analysis of big data sets, and the application of new analytics for outcome driven results.

She is hopeful that the EnHIP will continue to address the complex digital world of data sources in which students are navigating now as well as the multi-factorial nature of data that now is available at the NLM. Further, she emphasized that the member institutions must continue to make available and use current library resources to assist in the development of a diverse workforce that will be ready and capable of using all types of data to improve population health, quality of life, and community-based participatory and translational research.