The University of South Carolina’s Center for Research in Nutrition and Health Disparities and Environment and Sustainability Program invites faculty, staff, students, and community members to their 3rd Annual Symposium, "Healthy Eating in Context: Bridging Gaps, Linking Communities."

Plan to spend the day with us! We'll start the morning off with keynote speaker, Dr. Mariana Chilton, Associate Professor at the Drexel University School of Public Health and Director of the Center for Hunger-Free Communities, who will share with us:

“Lessons from partnering with low-income mothers to address hunger in America: How “linking communities” brings trouble & opportunity”

This keynote address will be followed by oral and poster presentations from researchers, students, and community members, as well as a lunch designed to strengthen linkages among attendees. The event will start around 8:30am and end by 4:00pm. Details of exact times will be released closer to the time of the event.

**Background & Purpose:** The goal of this symposium is to connect the diverse communities of South Carolinians who are interested in nutrition research to improve the health of our citizens, local economies, and treasured environmental resources. These interest groups include the multiple disciplines represented by academic scholars at our state’s colleges and universities, researchers from for- and non-profit organizations, and concerned community members. The symposium will focus on eliciting the cross-fertilization of ideas and creating meaningful linkages between these diverse interest groups in order to address nutrition needs within our state.
Call for Abstracts for Paper and Poster Presentations: Faculty members from any South Carolina-based college or university, staff, students, community groups, and community members are invited to submit a 250-word abstract to present at the symposium. Abstracts are due by 5:00 p.m. on March 4, 2013. Abstracts will be accepted related to the following focus areas:

* Bridging the scientific gaps: Connecting discovery and action for better nutrition
* Community and household food security
* Nutrition-related health communications: Culture, messaging, and mHealth promotion
* Nutrition policy, advocacy, and community organizing
* Integrating nutrition and physical activity in community health promotion
* Climate change, sustainability, and the food supply

Abstracts will be peer reviewed and selected based on the following criteria: relevance to symposium focus areas, potential for advancement of nutrition-related research, and quality of content. Abstracts presented within the last year from national and international meetings are welcome.

Please click here to upload your abstract. As a submitting author, please certify that all co-authors agree to the submission of the abstract. You will be notified the week of March 11, 2013 if your submission has been accepted. Acceptance of abstract constitutes commitment to present.

Registration: Advanced registration for the symposium is required. Reservations will be accepted in the order they are received. To receive symposium materials at registration, please register by March 22, 2013. Late registration and walk-ins will be accepted as space allows, and symposium materials will be distributed as available.

Registration Costs:
(Registration fee includes lunch and registration packet)

University Faculty and Staff- $25.00
Students and Community Members- $15.00

Refund Policy: After your payment is received, it will be processed and cannot be refunded for any reason.

Registration fee is payable with a credit card or check. To receive symposium materials at registration, please complete the following steps by March 22, 2013:

Please click here to register.

Community Exhibitors:
If you would like to set up a display booth for your community organization/ agency, please complete The Community Exhibitor Form. The Community Exhibitor Form is not a substitution for individual registrations. Each community exhibitor must complete 1) a registration form; and 2) a community exhibitor’s form.

The total cost is $45.00, which includes:
1) The registration fee (lunch and registration packet).
2) A skirted table and chairs for the community exhibit.
Please complete the following steps by March 15, 2013:
1) Please click here to complete The Community Exhibitor's Form.
   (Note: Community exhibit information will be sent to your email address)
2) Have you also registered? If not, please click here. You can pay by credit card or check.

**Venue:**
The symposium will be held at the
Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center
1101 Lincoln Street
Columbia, SC 29201
*Note: The symposium will be held in room Richland A, B, and C. Lunch will be provided in the Lexington Room.*

**Hotel Accommodations:**
If you like the charm of an upscale inn right in the heart of the USC campus, you may want to consider the Inn at USC. Please indicate to the front desk contact that you will be attending the symposium. You can also choose from a wide range of hotels at the [Columbia's official tourism website](#).

**Airport Information:**
The Columbia Metropolitan Airport is located six miles southwest of Columbia's central business district and is also conveniently located near interstate highways, which are centered in Columbia. These highways include I-20, I-26, and I-77. Major airlines serving the airport include American, Continental, Delta, United, US Airways and Vision.

**Contact:**
For more information or questions, please contact:
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Click here to download information.

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