

Collaboration Success Stories
Wednesday, 2:15-3:15 p.m.
Grand Ballroom

Nicole Berckes, Moderator

Nicole Berckes co-leads TRI Program outreach and communications. She has nine years of professional experience in communications and research for nonprofit, private and public sector organizations, and joined EPA in 2010.

From September 2014 to February 2015, Nicole served as Acting Communications Coordinator for the TRI Program Division. During that time, Nicole was part of the team awarded the CIO Innovation Award for work on improving access to the 2013 TRI National Analysis.

Prior to permanently joining TRI in 2016, Nicole served as Communications and Registration Liaison for the Biopesticides and Pollution Prevention Division, Office of Pesticide Programs.

Prior to joining the Agency, Nicole worked in communications for a variety in non-profits and also served as Press Aide for US Senator Bill Nelson. Nicole received her BA from Smith College, and MA from New York University.

Vernice Miller-Travis, Presenter

Vernice Miller-Travis is a Senior Advisor for Environmental Justice & Equitable Development and a member of the Community Planning and Revitalization Team at Skeo Solutions. She targets her efforts to working with communities that have undergone economic disinvestment and environmental degradation to facilitate and implement community revitalization and sustainable redevelopment initiatives and projects. Her projects focus on sustainable community planning and design, environmental law, regulation and policy, sustainable land-use planning, brownfields revitalization and equitable redevelopment, hazardous waste abatement and clean-up, toxic air emissions reduction, green space design and development, healthy indoor and outdoor school environments, and green job development. She served as a principal co-author of the report [Now is the Time: Environmental Injustice in the U.S. and Recommendations for Eliminating Disparities](#) published by the Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights Under Law in June, 2010. Vernice is concluding her second appointment to the National Environmental

Justice Advisory Council and is serving as Acting Chair of the Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities. She also co-chaired the NEJAC's Work Group on School Air Toxics Monitoring.

Erica Holloman, Presenter

Dr. Erica L. Holloman earned a B.S. in Marine and Environmental Science and a M.S. in Biology with a concentration in Environmental Science from Hampton University. She earned her Ph.D. from the School of Marine Science at the College of William & Mary, Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS). Dr. Holloman's area of expertise lies in the field of marine science, environmental risk assessments (human and ecological), community-based participatory research (CBPR), and environmental justice. She currently volunteers as Coalition Coordinator for the Southeast CARE Coalition, a broad, grassroots, community-based alliance created to address environmental concerns in the Southeast Community of Newport News, Virginia. Dr. Holloman is also the founder and CEO of Ayika Solutions, Inc, an environmental consulting firm focused on "providing environmental strategies today that sustain whole communities tomorrow". Under her leadership, Ayika Solutions, Inc. creates and manages the sacred spaces where sound science and authentic community engagement merge into implementable, empowered solutions.