

MEDIA RELEASE

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DR. ANTOINETTE (TONI) YANCEY
Creator of Instant Recess

The Antronette (Toni) Yancey and Darlene Edgley Fellowship for Health Promotion, Physical Fitness and Community Health Education (*The Yancey/Edgley Fellowship*) granted its inaugural Fellowship to Kimberly Coleman-Phox, MPH and The California Endowment Foundation presented the Fellowship with a challenge grant of \$250,000

The Yancey/Edgley inaugural Fellow was presented to **Kimberly Coleman-Phox, MPH**. Coleman-Phox is researching racial disparities in maternal and infant health outcomes, especially among low-income women. With additional health risks driven by the obesity epidemic, her dissertation research focuses on physical activity and interventions to prevent excessive gestational weight gain and improve pregnancy outcomes.

“I am deeply moved and honored to have received the inaugural Yancey/Edgley Fellow. Dr. Toni Yancey was a fierce voice for physical activity and an advocate to stem the tide of obesity in communities of color.” – Kimberly Coleman-Phox, MPH

Dr. Robert K. Ross, President and Chief Executive Officer of the California Endowment Foundation took to the stage and shared moving and touching stories about Dr. Toni Yancey’s work and her vision for real change in public health for underserved communities. Dr. Ross brought the house down when he presented The Yancey/Edgley Fellowship with a \$250,000 challenge grant, “Be Fearless, I encourage you to stand up, move and be the person who is going to create real change like Toni Yancey. This challenge grant is about all of us being part of the solution” – Dr. Bob Ross

“The California Endowment's challenge grant is truly an opportunity for the fellowship to continue Dr. Yancey's legacy by fostering the next generation of public health professionals and academics who are committed to eliminating obesity in underserved communities through physical fitness. By supporting these individuals both financially and through mentorship while they conduct ground-breaking community-based research, we are hoping to steward in the next innovative thinkers so that they might also make real national change like

Dr. Yancey did. The magnitude of the challenge grant will insure that the fellowship is able to assist many professionals, DrPH dissertation students and DrPH post-doc fellows for years to come. We are truly grateful for The California Endowment's leadership and generosity." – Darlene Edgley, President Yancey/Edgley Fellowship.

The Yancey/Edgley Fellowship has been created to continue the work, which Dr. Yancey was deeply passionate about, by working with schools of public health to identify and recruit prospective students from historically underrepresented racial groups dedicated to addressing obesity and related chronic diseases in underserved communities through physical activity. With many organizations focusing on the creation of programs designed to uplift the health of underserved communities, the Yancey/Edgley Fellowship will strengthen pipelines for some of the brightest minds from these underserved communities to obtain the financial support they need to finish their public health doctoral training and create life-changing programs. In addition, the Yancey/Edgley Fellowship will work with organizations serving the public health needs of underserved communities to identify prospective professionals for post-doctoral fellowships and for stipends that enable these professionals to participate in professional conferences.

The Yancey/Edgley Fellowship is a program of Community Partners.