# BUILD EXITO Summer Research Academy 2020

## Research Learning Community Panelist Biographical Information

## Time/Date/Location

Saturday, June 20, 2020, at 3:35 pm-4:35 pm Pacific Time, via Zoom. See event website for link

## Panel Goals

1. To provide Scholars with concrete examples of research opportunities available to them through BUILD EXITO
2. To offer Scholars guidance on working in research labs, if they continue into Phase 2 of the BUILD EXITO program
3. To showcase the spectrum of research experience in an RLC by having a variety of panelists at different stages in their careers (students up to tenured faculty)

## Panel Format

Each panelist will have 1-2 minutes to briefly introduce themselves and their background/ area of study. Scholars will then move into breakout rooms for approximately 5 minutes to formulate 2-3 questions to ask the panelists. After 5 minutes, we will come back to the large group. The remainder of the time will be Q&A, allowing each small group the opportunity to ask a question. There may also be an opportunity for individual questions from Scholars if time allows. Click here for more information on the format.

## Moderator

**Drake Mitchell - Panel Moderator**

*Professor of Physics, PSU*

*Drake Mitchell's research interests and technical specialties include fluorescence (time-resolved & spectra), calorimetry, liposomes, and biological membrane mimetics.*

## RLC Panelists

Edlyn Lopez
EXITO Scholar, Darney Lab
*She/ her/ hers*
*I am an undergraduate at Portland State University (PSU) majoring in Health Studies and a minoring in Spanish. I am in cohort 4 (2nd year in the Build Exito Program). I am placed in Dr. Blair Darney's RLC located in Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) Obstetrics and Gynecology (OB/GYN) Family Planning Department. The project I am working on focuses on health care access and the influence/impact from policies. The title of my project is Understanding the Use of Public Healthcare Programs and Impact of the "public charge" among Oregon Latino/as.*

Yareli Cornejo Torres
*I am a BUILD EXITO Alumni. I graduated with a BS in Public Health- Community Health Education. My PI was Dr. Blair Darney, our lab is in Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) in the Obstetrics and Gynecology OB/GYN department of family planning. Currently, my colleagues and I are writing a manuscript for my project Improving Latina Participation in Health Research at OHSU. Starting next month I will begin my new job position at OHSUs Women's Health Research Unit (WHRU) as a Study and Outreach Coordinator.*

Blair Darney
RLC Leader, OHSU
Assistant Professor
Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology, OHSU
Health Systems & Policy, OHSU/PSU School of Public Health
*Dr. Darney is a reproductive health services researcher and has an OHSU primary faculty appointment as an Assistant Professor on the OHSU Dept of OB/Gyn, Family Planning Section. Her work focuses on obstetric outcomes, maternal mortality, contraception, and abortion. She primarily engages in secondary analyses of existing data but also has experience with intervention and feasibility studies. Her areas of expertise include working with surveys, census, claims, and medical chart data, improving causal inference in non-randomized designs, measuring quality of care, and health insurance and financing. She works in Mexico and the US and has an active externally funded program of research. She also serves as a mentor in PSU's BUILD EXITO program.*

Dora Raymaker
*RLC Leader, PSU Research Assistant Professor, School of Social Work*

*Dora Raymaker, Ph.D., is a systems scientist and Research Assistant Professor at Portland State University's Regional Research Institute for Human Services, Co-director of the Academic Autism Spectrum Partnership in Research and Education (AASPIRE.org), and associate editor of "Autism in Adulthood." Dr. Raymaker's research interests include community-engaged practice, systems thinking, measurement, and the dynamics at the intersection of science, society, and policy. Dr. Raymaker conducts intervention services research in collaboration with the Autistic community to improve employment outcomes and reduce discrimination and stigma. In their remaining three minutes of time, they enjoy writing fiction and making multimedia art (doraraymaker.com).*

Mirah Scharer

*EXITO Alum, AASPIRE Research Assistant*

*My name is Mirah (Meer-uh) Scharer (Share), I am a Cohort 1a EXITO Alumni, who graduated in June 2018 with a Bachelor's of Science from the PSU Honors College in Psychology. Currently, I work as a research assistant for my former RLC - the Academic and Autism Spectrum Partnership in Research and Education (AASPIRE) – under principle investigators Dora Raymaker, PhD, and Christina Nicolaidis, MD, MPH. Our research within AASPIRE specifically focuses on the development and implementation of service-related interventions, aimed at improving the lives of Autistic adults, all within the framework of community-based participatory research (CBPR).*

Alex Hunt

RLC Leader, PSU, Assistant Professor
Design & Manufacturing Group

*Alex is a cross-disciplinary systems problem solver. His expertise includes testing, analyzing, and debugging complex systems composed of software, electrical, and mechanical components. By working closely with international biologists studying locomotion, he developed a dynamic legged robotic control system derived from mammalian spinal cord structure. His work investigating neurological control of locomotion resulted in a best paper award at Living Machines 2014 in Milan, Italy.*

Holly Martinson
*RLC Leader, UAA*
*Assistant Professor*
*WWAMI School of Medical Education*
*Dr. Martinson is a third-generation Alaskan, first-generation college student, and a cancer biologist at the University of Alaska Anchorage. She is dedicated to advancing cancer science in Alaska and she intends to fully harness her training to serve her local community. Her ultimate goal is to create a cancer center in Alaska. Since many Alaska residents are unable to participate in cancer clinical trials due to the costs associated with traveling to nearby cancer centers that are located thousands of miles away. If we had a better understanding of cancer in Alaska, more effective treatment options for our patients could be identified or they could be signed up for clinical trials initiated in Alaska, where they could be treated close to their family and friends. The Alaska Native population is understudied," says Martinson. "The next steps for my research project are to utilize the results we have obtained to identify alternative therapies or clinical trials for gastric cancer patients, including this population that is in such great need of better, more effective treatments.*