



For Immediate Release

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Salus University participates in Independence Blue Cross Foundation National Health Equity Forum in Philadelphia

Philadelphia, PA. - Salus University faculty, staff and students convened at the first Independence Blue Cross Foundation Institute for Health Equity (Institute) in the Philadelphia region. The event, hosted on April 11, 2023 at the National Constitution Center, brought together hundreds of regional and national leaders representing academic medicine, national professional medical organizations, regional health systems, nonprofit organizations, government, and philanthropy to drive action in medical education, digital health and maternal health. The three-day Health Equity Forum drove sustainable, collaborative change in our region and is a model for the nation.

Salus University officials were heavily involved in the first day of the conference, centered around addressing disparities in the physician workforce in partnership with the Delaware Valley DEI Consortium. Director of Admissions, Monica Scirrotto, spoke at a recruitment session centered around Admissions, dean of the Pennsylvania College of Optometry (PCO) at Salus University, **Melissa Trego, OD '04, Resident '09, PhD**, participated in a roundtable discussion on "Making Change Happen," and the University's special assistant to the president, Dr. Juliana Mosley-Williams was involved as a panel moderator discussing curriculum addressing health equity disparities.

"One year ago, we expanded our commitment to create actionable change through our Institute for Health Equity," says Lorina Marshall-Blake, president of the Independence Blue Cross Foundation. "This Health Equity Forum is one of the many ways we're catalyzing ideas into action and demonstrates what our Institute was created to achieve. We are delighted to bring together many of our region and nation's most respected thought leaders on these critical issues."

Salus University remains committed to increasing diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives within healthcare education. University officials are looking forward to

engaging and participating in more events like this in the future.

About Salus University

Salus University, founded as the Pennsylvania College of Optometry in 1919, today is a diversified, globally recognized professional academic center of learning that offers a wide range of degree programs in the professions of Optometry, Audiology, Physician Assistant, Blindness and Low Vision Studies, Biomedicine, Occupational Therapy, Speech-Language Pathology and Orthotics and Prosthetics. Salus operates four clinical facilities in Philadelphia and Montgomery counties that provide highly specialized vision, hearing and balance, Speech-Language pathology and occupational therapy services. The University has over 1,200 students, and more than 14,000 alumni worldwide. For more information, please visit www.salus.edu.

About the Independence Blue Cross Foundation

The Independence Blue Cross Foundation is leading a future for equitable health in our communities and nation. The IBC Foundation's grant programs and the Independence Blue Cross Foundation Institute for Health Equity are advancing three areas of impact: Access to Care, the Healthcare Workforce, and Health Equity.

Since inception the IBC Foundation's most important stakeholder – the community – has been at the center of the work. By the end of 2023, the IBC Foundation will have awarded grants totaling more than \$80 million to support nonprofits and research improving the health and well-being of communities in southeastern Pennsylvania.

Independence Blue Cross Foundation is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

Learn more by visiting our website: ibxfoundation.org. Connect with the Independence Blue Cross Foundation on LinkedIn.