

Abstract: 2020 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Showcase

Project ADAM – Texas Children’s Hospital

Speaker: Santiago O. Valdes

Project ADAM at Texas Children’s Hospital is a unique partnership with Houston area schools to help school staff prevent Sudden Cardiac Death. Project Adam partners with inner city schools with primarily lower socioeconomic and minority students in the Greater Houston Area to ensure they are adequately prepared to respond in case of a cardiac arrest on their campus. Participating schools receive a special “Heart Safe” designation when training is complete. Project Adam volunteers collect data from the school districts to identify a cohort of schools that would benefit from becoming Heart Safe. Criteria include schools with low Automated External Defibrillators (AED) to student ratios, schools with outdated AEDs, and schools located in areas with a higher incidence of out of hospital cardiac arrest with low incidence of bystander CPR. Once a cohort is identified, Project Adam volunteers provide the schools with classes to recognize cardiac arrests and train a selected cardiac response team to respond to an event. Training includes certification in CPR and how to use an AED. Project Adam secured grant funding to provide selected schools with new AEDs. The goal of Project Adam at Texas Children’s Hospital is to improve response for cardiac arrests at Greater Houston Area schools and thus healthcare outcomes for disadvantaged students.