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Global Health CONNECTION

JULY 2026

*In this special edition of Rutgers Global Health Institute's **Global Health Connection**, we want to showcase the Rutgers School of Health Professions and their 50-year journey.*



Image courtesy of Rutgers School of Health Professions

Health Equity at the Core: Rutgers School of Health Professions Celebrates 50 Years of Community-Driven Impact

For a half-century, the [Rutgers School of Health Professions \(SHP\)](#) has quietly served as the backbone of New Jersey's healthcare workforce. Now, celebrating its historic **50th anniversary**, the nation's most comprehensive school of health professions is stepping into the spotlight to showcase a mission that has defined its legacy: **dismantling health disparities through innovative research, clinical excellence, and grassroots community support.**

With more than 14,000 alumni globally, the school has evolved from a regional training hub into a national leader in health equity. Under the new stewardship of **Dean Jeffrey J. DiGiovanni, Ph.D.**, Rutgers SHP is demonstrating that true healthcare happens when providers step out of academic silos and into the communities that need them most.

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future of equitable care," says Dean DiGiovanni. "Health equity isn't a secondary initiative here—it is the foundation of our research, our teaching, and our clinical practice."

Learn more about SHP and their incredible work here:

<https://globalhealth.rutgers.edu/news/health-equity-at-the-core-rutgers-school-of-health-professions-celebrates-50-years-of-community-driven-impact/>

Mobile Food Pantry Event for SHP's 50th Anniversary



To celebrate their 50th anniversary, the school is hosting a variety of events throughout the year. Their next event will be a Mobile Food Pantry on July 28th. It is open to all students, staff, and faculty.

For more information on this and other events celebrating SHP's 50th year, please visit:

<https://shp.rutgers.edu/shp-50/>

Celebrating Dr. Barbara Gladson DeMarco, Senior Associate Dean for Education at the Rutgers School of Health Professions and Core Faculty Member of the Rutgers Global Health Institute



Please join us in celebrating **Dr. Barbara Gladson DeMarco**, who will retire in September after more than three decades of distinguished service to Rutgers University. Throughout

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Dr. DeMarco joined Rutgers as a faculty member in the School of Health Professions Physical Therapy program and went on to serve in numerous leadership roles, including Program Director, Department Chair, and Senior Associate Dean for Education. During her tenure, she spearheaded the development of several innovative academic programs, most notably the Master of Science in Clinical Research Management, one of the first programs of its kind in the nation. She also played a key role in major institutional initiatives, including the Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA), the restructuring of the Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences program, and the expansion of the Health Science Careers Academy. Through these efforts, Dr. DeMarco has left a lasting legacy that has strengthened academic programs, enhanced workforce development, and enriched the educational experiences of countless students and faculty.

Among her many accomplishments, Dr. DeMarco was instrumental in establishing Rutgers Health's micro-credentialing badge initiative, an innovative program that has supported workforce training across the university and beyond. The program has extended internationally through collaborations such as the Botswana–Rutgers Partnership for Health and the Cancer Kitso Training Program. Equally significant has been her commitment to inspiring the next generation of healthcare professionals. She has worked closely with Newark area high schools to introduce students to the health professions through immersive simulation experiences led by Rutgers faculty and students and was especially influential in developing the Health Academy at Weequahic High School, creating meaningful pathways for students to pursue careers in healthcare.

We are deeply grateful for Dr. DeMarco's extraordinary contributions to Rutgers University and the countless lives she has influenced through her leadership, mentorship, and unwavering commitment to education. Although we celebrate her well-earned retirement, we are delighted that she will remain part of the Rutgers community as an affiliate member of the Rutgers Global Health Institute, and we look forward to continuing our collaboration in the years ahead.

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