

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

This award is given in recognition of mutually beneficial and sustained campus-community research partnerships.

Courtney Carignan

College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

College of Veterinary Medicine

Great Lakes PFAS Action Network

Represented by Sandy Wynn-Stell

PFAS Research, Education and Action for Community Health

Food Science and Human Nutrition
College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Pharmacology and Toxicology
College of Veterinary Medicine

COURTNEY CARIGNAN

Designated Community Partner Representative
Great Lakes PFAS Action Network

SANDY WYNN-STELT



(Left to Right) Tobyn McNaughton, Courtney Carignan, Sandy Wynn-Stelt. Sandy is co-chair of the Great Lakes PFAS Action Network. Tobyn is a PFAS impacted member of Sandy's community.

Dr. Courtney Carignan and the Great Lakes PFAS Action Network's (GLPAN) partnership has provided critical knowledge on the emerging class of "forever chemicals" or per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances known as PFAS. PFAS has impacted and contaminated drinking water, surface water, and local and homegrown foods in Michigan communities and around the world.

Dr. Carignan's research focused on characterizing exposure to PFAS and developing educational resources for communities impacted by PFAS. Her research has contributed to the understanding that use of Class B firefighting foams and industrial discharge of PFAS to wastewater treatment plants can be significant sources of water contamination, and that an accumulation of PFAS in surface water foams can pose potential health risks in more highly contaminated water bodies. Her research has also uncovered that local and homegrown foods can contribute to ongoing exposure for PFAS impacted communities where drinking water contamination has been addressed.

Dr. Carignan and GLPAN have been in partnership for six years, and what began as 13 community engaged service projects to provide support for Michigan communities has evolved into engaged research projects to develop new knowledge about PFAS exposure and educational materials for PFAS impacted communities and their clinicians. This partnership has contributed to two scientific publications, with six more scientific publications in review; over 30 invited presentations by Dr. Carignan and GLPAN partners; development of educational materials for PFAS impacted communities, including several fact sheets and a continuing medical education training; and numerous news articles. These activities have been supported in part by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).

For exemplifying the scholarship-guided outreach that MSU is committed to as a land-grant university and their dedication to PFAS impacted communities, Dr. Carignan and GLPAN are highly deserving of the Community Engagement Scholarship Award.