



## COMMUNITY-ENGAGED LEARNING BEYOND CLINIC WALLS

Recognized by the Commonwealth Council on Aging for the Annual Best Practices Award in 2012.

PATHWAY: OLDER ADULTS AND CHRONICALLY ILL

### Project Description-HealthWise Technology Coaching

- Healthwise coaches teach novice technology users, all 55 years or better, how to use various computer features such as WiFi, Zoom, email and the Birdsong App, which has an array of educational, musical and cognitively stimulating programs.
- Coaches engage virtually with the participant each week for 3 months and conduct a variety of digital activities.
- Coaches receive training and assignments from the HealthWise Technology Program Project Manager.
- Students may participate in a research study on technology training and social isolation and may qualify for financial support to attend state and national meetings.

### Project Description - Memory Clinic Questionnaires

- Geriatric patients coming to the Memory Clinic traditionally complete a lengthy medical questionnaire during their appointment.
- This new project would involve students remotely assisting patients/caregivers in completing this paperwork ahead of their visit.
- We aim to increase clinic efficiency, helping patients to receive care in a timely manner.

### Annual Student Activities

- Collaborate with the student interest group in geriatric medicine.
- Attend talks given by Glennan Center geriatricians.
- Submit manuscripts and abstracts for publication.

### Community Outcomes/Results

- ↑ Social support
- ↑ Ability for participants to remain independent
- ↑ Safety in the home
- ↑ Advocacy for older participants

### Facilitators

- **Marissa Galicia-Castillo, MD, FAAHPM**  
*Director, Glennan Center for Geriatrics and Gerontology*
- **Madeline L. Dunstan, MS**  
*Associate Director of Education, Glennan Center for Geriatrics and Gerontology*

### The Need

- The older population is expected to continue to grow significantly in the future.
- Approximately 27% of older adults live alone.
- Over 1/3 of Medicare beneficiaries (all ages) reported feeling less socially connected.
- Source: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services & Profile of Older American