



## History of the Lactation Consultant Program

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The vision for this program came from the voices and concerns of families who participate in the Queen City Cocoa B.E.A.N.S. (QCCB) monthly café groups. QCCB is an initiative of a local organization and is designed to empower people of color and their families to embrace breastfeeding and good nutrition as cultural and social norms. Six years ago, Lugenia Grider, the Program Manager for the LCTP, reached out to colleagues to start a discussion around creating a more inclusive patient-provider relationship and providing families with reassurance and comfort that there are culturally appropriate organizations for people of color, by people of color.

Several colleagues from Johnson C. Smith, (Dean Laura McLean and Dr. Antonia Mead), from the Carolina Global Breastfeeding Institute (CGBI) at UNC-Chapel Hill, (Catherine Sullivan and Abby Smetana), and from Novant Health were looped into the discussion with the leaders of QCCB, as they were in positions that would catapult this project forward. From that time, leaders from each of these organizations have been instrumental serving as key players through their professional strengths and personal commitment. For the first year, Novant Health made a decision to serve as the primary clinical site for students to work with preceptors and provided financial support as well.

Having one of the leading lactation consultant training programs in the country (the Marry Rose Tully Training Initiative – MRTTI), CGBI, in partnership with Stacy Davis, Executive Director of the National Association of Peer and Professional Lactation Supporters of Color (NAPPLSC), received a grant from W.K. Kellogg and developed an initiative known as RISE: Lactation Training Model (Reclaiming, Improving, and Sustaining Equity) to provide a start-up package for Johnson C Smith and other HBCUs to develop their own Pathway 2 lactation training programs. The Program Director and one of the leaders of QCCB, Rachel Davis, has served with each of these key players and stakeholders, is an alum of UNC-Chapel Hill and a graduate of the MRTTI program.

[Click here to read the press release.](#)