

# PREVENTION

Newsletter for the Teen Video Study at Carnegie Mellon University and West Virginia University

## Kick-off Event Held for Pittsburgh Pilot Testing Partners

On Friday, October 23, 2015, the Teen Video Study team hosted a kick-off meeting with representatives from Pittsburgh-area youth serving organizations. We are partnered with several organizations including the Pittsburgh Project, Crossroads Foundation, YouthWorks, Propel Schools, and Dreams of Hope to pilot test our new intervention curriculum with girls ages 14-19. This kick-off event allowed us to share our ongoing work and to make plans for and troubleshoot pilot testing challenges in advance. Pilot testing of the new curriculum lessons is projected to take place in Spring 2016.

*“With a comprehensive action plan, a coalition can engage people, ideas, and resources across sectors to create a synergy of health and prevention efforts that will have a lasting effect on community health.”*

*-Frances Dunn Butterfoss*

## New TVS Partner: Planned Parenthood of Greater Ohio



We are happy to announce that Planned Parenthood of Greater Ohio will be partnering with us to reach girls for our new sexual health intervention. They will join Planned Parenthoods of Central and Western New York, Metropolitan New Jersey, St. Louis Region, Delaware, and Western Pennsylvania in working with us as we implement and evaluate the new program.

*“The teacher who is indeed wise does not bid you to enter the house of wisdom but rather leads you to the threshold of your mind.”*

*-Khalil Gibran*



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Participants at the kick-off event listening to Dr. Julie Downs.

## TEAM MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Carnegie Mellon University (CMU)



**Julie Downs, PhD**  
**Associate Research Professor &  
Principle Investigator**

Julie Downs, PhD, is an Associate Research Professor of Social and Decisional sciences at Carnegie Mellon University. Her research is most focused on technology and how it can influence or facilitate a person's daily decision making. She is interested in learning about how people interpret information from different contexts. Julie's spare time is spent chasing her two children and her dog Sadie.



**Anna Maria Berta**  
**Project Director**

Anna Maria Berta holds an MS in Applied Mathematics and a Project Management certification. She has a background in software development and project management for e-learning environments, informal learning, and educational games. In her spare time, Anna enjoys cooking traditional Ligurian meals, teaching Italian, and watching avant-garde movies in arthouse theaters. She appeared in a film, on a reality TV show, and spoke on the evening news, but feels she has about 14 more minutes of fame to achieve.



**Mandy Lanyon**  
**Research Associate & Tech Coordinator**

Mandy Lanyon holds a BA in Psychology from the University of Virginia. She has worked at Carnegie Mellon University since 2000. Mandy spends her "free time" transporting her 11 year-old to youth football games or baton competitions, and taking her 3 year-old to the ice rink. Her hobby is creating a coffee table-style book of the amazing families in the Appalachian area.

### Facts About Teens and Sex in the US:

- Teen mothers with a second or higher birth account for over 20% of the approximately 500,000 teen births each year.
- Daughters of teen mothers are three times more likely to become teen mothers themselves.
- 38% of teen girls who have a child before the age of 18 get a high school diploma by age 22.

*(Source: The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy)*

### Contact Us

Is there anything you'd like to see in the next newsletter? Do you have questions about items in this newsletter? Let us know by emailing Dr. Amie Ashcraft at [amashcraft@hsc.wvu.edu](mailto:amashcraft@hsc.wvu.edu).

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It is intended for project staff and partners and should not be shared with TVS research participants.

