



AMTC

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News

“I am honored to serve our exceptional clients who are transforming the lives of individuals and communities in the regions they serve.”

Angela Turner

AMTC News

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Gratitude for a Year of Progress and Impact

As we approach the holiday season, I am grateful to work with the outstanding staff and consultants at AMTC. I am equally honored to serve our exceptional clients who are transforming the lives of individuals and communities in the regions they serve.

During the past two years, in addition to providing our clients with research and evaluation support, we have had the tremendous privilege and opportunity to study core components of teen pregnancy prevention (TPP) programs and their role in preventing teen pregnancy. We are in the final stages of the “Content, Pedagogy, Implementation, and Context Study” which identified 22 core components that impact the success of five TPP curricula. AMTC researchers utilized a two-phased approach analyzing both qualitative and quantitative data. I invite you to read more on page two.

An outgrowth of the study included the creation of a new tool to assess TPP programs, called the “CPIC Core Component Framework: A Guide for Innovating, Designing, and Adapting TPP Curricula with Ease” (see page three). Although a few other tools exist within the TPP field, this new tool is distinct. It provides a

comprehensive assessment of the 22 core components and enables users to consider strengthening their programs based on their assessment results. Special care was taken not to duplicate existing tools. The tool will undergo rigorous testing before it is officially rolled out.

Research Associate Dr. Immaculate Apchemengich played a key role in this study and is highlighted on page four. We also invite you to learn more about our newest associate, Administrative Coordinator Rebekah Smith, who helps administer our multifaceted operations.

Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season,

Angela Turner
Principal



CPIC STUDY SHEDS LIGHT ON TPP CORE COMPONENTS



AMTC has completed an exciting two-year study, and the findings are eye-opening. The Content, Pedagogy, Implementation, and Context Core Components Study (CPIC Study) focused on identifying core components of a sample of effective, evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention (TPP) curricula. The study was funded by the Office of Population Affairs (OPA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Using a rigorous qualitative research approach, AMTC researchers identified 22 core components of five TPP curricula: *Draw the Line/Respect the Line*, *Love Notes*, *Making Proud Choices*, *Promoting Health Among Teens—Abstinence Only*, and *Reducing the Risk*. The core components were categorized by **Content** (subject or topics covered in the curriculum), **Pedagogy** (how that content is taught), and **Implementation** (how the curriculum is delivered). Context considerations (circumstances and conditions under which an evidence-based program is implemented) were provided.

Future orientation is one newly identified core content component and is the ability of adolescents to intentionally plan their futures and think about how their actions have consequences. Core pedagogical methods were also identified, including how the use of *writing with a pen and paper may help with learning and memory*. A core implementation finding included *facilitators who demonstrate genuine respect and care to learners*. For more information on these findings, see the [CPIC Phase 1 Study Brief](#).

In addition to qualitative research methods, the team utilized a robust quantitative approach to analyze survey and implementation data. This pointed to significant predictors of behavioral intentions for middle and high school students. For example, among the high school sample, *self-efficacy* consistently emerged as the most important predictor of behavioral intentions to engage in only safe sexual behaviors. For middle school, the most

important predictor was *knowledge*. AMTC research associate Immaculate Apchemengich, Ph.D., was a significant study contributor and emphasizes, “This study expanded my perspective on how to leverage secondary data collected by TPP grantees to address gaps.”

Now that the study has concluded, its findings and a newly developed tool (explained in the next article) will soon be available on the AMTC website. The team is also working on a manuscript for a peer-reviewed journal and will present study findings at conferences and webinars.



NEW CORE COMPONENT: FUTURE ORIENTATION

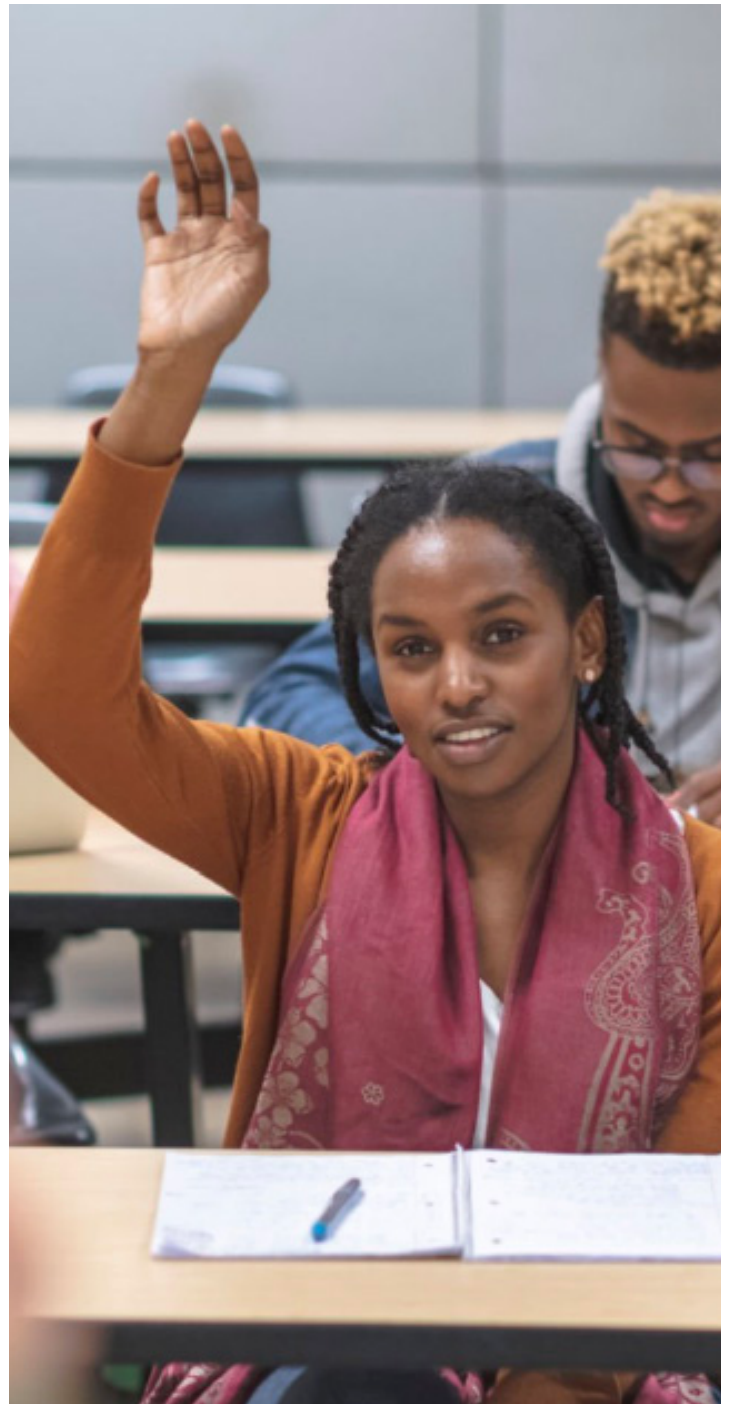
“The ability of adolescents to intentionally plan their futures and think about how their actions have consequences.”

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT TOOL EMERGES FROM THE CPIC STUDY

One of the outcomes of the CPIC study was the development of a practical tool, the **CPIC Core Component Framework: A Guide For Innovating, Designing, and Adapting TPP Curricula with Ease**. This tool is designed to be useful to many audiences including evaluators, program designers/adapters, funders, and more. It will provide a means to assess core components of evidence-based programs and identify gaps.

According to AMTC research associate Dr. Immaculate Apchemengich, who led the tool's development, it could be a game changer. When asked what makes this tool distinctive compared to those currently used in the field, Apchemengich answered, "The tool offers a framework for conducting a comprehensive assessment of the 22 core components we identified in our study and prompts users to reflect on how they can strengthen their curriculum. We took special care to review all existing tools to avoid duplicating what was already being used."

Although the tool shows promise for the entire TPP field, it is not yet ready for use. The tool must undergo pilot testing, internally and externally. As a first step, AMTC researchers will conduct a piloting session with its clients at the AMTC Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention (APP) Conference in January. When the tool passes the testing phase, AMTC looks forward to rolling it out to relevant audiences and training them on how to use it.



-To our Dear Friends and Valued Clients-

May you have a beautiful holiday season,
and may the new year be filled
with health, happiness, and hope.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you!



Meet Our *Associates*

Our diverse team delivers fast, relevant results for our clients. Here are two individuals who contribute to those efforts.

DR. IMMACULATE APCHEMENGICH RESEARCH ASSOCIATE



EDUCATION:

- Ph.D. in Public Health from the University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee
- Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from Methodist University, Fayetteville, North Carolina

What are your primary duties at AMTC?

I develop evaluation plans, including data collection, analysis, reporting, and dissemination for adolescent pregnancy prevention programs (APP), including survey development and performance measures for impact evaluation and continuous quality improvement. I primarily work on two research projects: The Content, Pedagogy, Implementation, and Context Study and the Personal Responsibility Education Innovative Strategies Randomized Control Trial study.

Overall, what has the experience been like at AMTC?

My experience has been rewarding and challenging, resulting in my professional growth. Collaborating with a team of supportive, driven, and passionate professionals has been inspiring. I have sharpened my analytical skills, advanced my application of different research methodologies, and deepened my understanding of APP research.

What do you find meaningful about your work at AMTC?

I appreciate AMTC's commitment to fostering growth and innovation. It is fulfilling to see the impact of our research on our clients and the field.

Moving forward, what do you hope to accomplish at AMTC?

I look forward to continuing the growth of our research focus to provide solutions to the complex challenges our clients address in the communities they serve.

Outside of your professional position, what do you enjoy?

I value spending time with my friends and family. Whether it's cooking together, game nights, or a road trip, it is incredibly fulfilling and a big part of how I recharge. I also enjoy tending to my houseplants.

REBEKAH SMITH ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR, ACCOUNTANT



EDUCATION:

- Bachelor of Arts in Business with an emphasis in Human Resource Management and International Studies from Bethel University, St. Paul, Minnesota

What are your primary duties at AMTC?

I provide accounting, fiscal, technological, and administrative support services to AMTC, including executive support for the principal.

Overall, what has the experience been like at AMTC?

My experience at AMTC has been incredibly rewarding. The work culture is supportive, and I appreciate how AMTC fosters an environment of continuous learning and innovation. AMTC seems to truly strive to embrace and navigate change versus avoiding it, which is refreshing.

What do you find meaningful about your work at AMTC?

Among many meaningful aspects of my work, I enjoy helping others and making their days a bit smoother. I'm driven to solve problems, streamline processes, and create solutions that make a difference. I admire the AMTC mission and how it impacts the organizations and communities it serves. It is fulfilling to contribute to the organization's goals while developing myself.

Moving forward, what do you hope to accomplish at AMTC?

I look forward to continued growth professionally and personally. I hope to contribute to our mission and help serve associates and employees to the best of my ability.

Outside of your professional position, what do you enjoy?

Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with my family. We love playing all kinds of games including board games and card games. I also enjoy coffee, baking, listening to podcasts, and reading.