

# SUTER SCIENCE SEMINARS 2018-19

## Healing with Words: The Bibliotherapy Program at Clemson University

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**4 p.m. Science Center, room 106**

*Words, when chosen carefully, have great power to comfort and heal. The Clemson University Bibliotherapy program has roots in a centuries-old practice of using literature to promote healing. The program is a combination of the once popular hospital library, bibliotherapy, and effective communication strategies. This session will provide an overview of the Clemson University Bibliotherapy program. This research-based training program enables pre-professional health students to improve communication skills using a compendium of readings shared with patients to promote health, comfort, hope, and well-being. Preliminary results of the program indicate that positive communication between patients and providers can impact patient well-being and health outcomes. Bibliotherapy acknowledges the healing nature of literature, combining verbal communication with a "live performance" of reading.*

Windsor Westbrook Sherrill, PhD, currently holds the post of associate vice president for health research at Clemson University and chief science officer at Greenville Health System. She is a Professor in the Department of Public Health Sciences at Clemson and an adjunct professor of the USC School of Medicine Greenville. Dr. Sherrill's research spans diverse disciplines, including medical and health management education, health finance and policy, and the evaluation of health services for underserved groups. She has been a leader in Clemson's Creative Inquiry initiative, a program that provided a foundation for the development of the Clemson Bibliotherapy program. Dr. Sherrill earned her undergraduate degree from Wake Forest University, master degrees in health and business administration from the University of Alabama at Birmingham and a doctorate in health policy from Brandeis University. She attended Wake Forest University with EMU Professor Martha Eads. Drs. Eads and Sherrill studied abroad in London, enjoying many tours and many McVitties English Biscuits.



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