## Morehouse School of Medicine Prevention Research Center Welcomes Natalie D. Hernandez, Ph.D., M.P.H.

## Assistant Professor, Community Health and Preventive Medicine Post-Doctoral Fellow with the Center of Excellence on Health Disparities (CEHD)

The Morehouse School of Medicine (MSM) Prevention Research (PRC) and Center of Excellence on Health Disparities (CEHD) are pleased to welcome Natalie Hernandez, Ph.D., M.P.H., assistant professor in the Department of Community Health and Preventive Medicine. She is also a postdoctoral fellow who engages in community-based participatory research (CBPR) scholarly activities. Dr. Hernandez's research interests are sexual and reproductive health disparities among ethnoracial minority women, social determinants of health and health policy. Dr. Hernandez is also a former Satcher Health Policy Leadership Fellow. Prior to her doctoral studies, Dr. Hernandez conducted CBPR and held leadership positions in a number of coalitions dedicated to advancing health equity. In addition to supporting community health promotion, education and advocacy, she also provided technical assistance to support the provision of high quality, culturally relevant, sensitive and linguistically appropriate health care and prevention services. Dr. Hernandez's expertise includes the health status and health needs of Latinos; community lay health educators (promotores de salud); HPV and cervical cancer among Latinas and other ethnoracial minorities; family planning and health advocacy. She has published and presented her work at various international, national, state and local conferences, and she has been published in peer-reviewed journals. The experience Dr. Hernandez brings makes her a great addition to both centers, where she will be mentored as she builds her health disparities research and health equity research portfolio. The CEHD Community Engagement Core, led by the PRC with guidance from its community led coalition board, provides funded research projects with guidance to ensure community engagement at every stage of research.