

ARTIST'S STATEMENT

Mary (Berg) Ellenberger

HEALTHY SOIL IN BLOOM, Digital Photograph Collage using a Canon EOS R6 Mark II, 2025

Artist: **Dr. Mary (Berg) Ellenberger**

Abstract:

Artist's Statement for the cover art of the Interdisciplinary Journal of Partnership Studies, Volume 12, Issue 1: HEALTHY SOIL IN BLOOM. Digital Photograph Collage using a Canon EOS R6 Mark II, 2025.

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To honor the summer, I have photographed some of the gifts that the Earth offers during the month of July in Minnesota. These images were captured at my home in St. Paul, Minnesota. The robust health of this wildlife is in part a result of my interdisciplinary investigation into soil health. I have collaborated with farmers, climate professionals, and food system specialists to understand the connections between human health and soil health. The center photo features a bud, developing and growing into its beautiful destiny. This bud is a tribute to the future of the *Interdisciplinary Journal of Partnership Studies*.

Dr. Mary (Berg) Ellenberger, DNP, RN, PHN, focuses her work on public and environmental health. She teaches Bachelor's and Master's level nursing students at the University of Minnesota School

of Nursing, and strengthens international health-care relationships through her work with Medical Education Cooperation with Cuba (MEDICC). Through the lens of planetary health, Dr. Ellenberger has prioritized collaboration with soil and food system experts to address upstream impacts on human health. A former Fellow of the American Nurses Advocacy Institute, Dr. Ellenberger regularly lobbies and speaks on policies that influence health.

