



Promoting health through partnerships between communities and higher educational institutions

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For more information, contact Jen Kauper-Brown at 206-543-7954 or jenbr@u.washington.edu, or visit <http://www.ccpb.info>.

National Collaborative Seeks to Change Academic Culture to Embrace Community Engagement

The Community-Engaged Scholarship for Health Collaborative is being announced today by Community-Campus Partnerships for Health. Funded by a three-year \$563,842 grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education, the Collaborative is comprised of a diverse group of ten health professional schools that seek to recognize and reward community engagement as central to the role of faculty members at their own institutions and nationally.

The Collaborative responds to recommendations of many prominent national groups that are calling upon health professional schools to be more engaged in their communities, including the Institute of Medicine, the Pew Health Professions Commission and the Commission on Community-Engaged Scholarship in the Health Professions. All of these groups advance partnerships with communities as an essential strategy for improving health professional education, increasing health workforce diversity and eliminating health disparities. Unfortunately, community engagement often conflicts with how faculty are recognized and rewarded. "There are many faculty members in health professional schools across the country who are passionate about their work in communities and who are pursuing it despite the prevailing academic culture and reward system," notes CCPH executive director Sarena D. Seifer. "We applaud and support their efforts. However, until community-based teaching, research and service is accepted as genuine scholarship and adequately recognized and rewarded in the faculty promotion and tenure system, they will continue to be marginalized and isolated from the academic mainstream. The Collaborative is at its core about changing institutional culture and incentives to realize the promise of the engaged campus."

The Collaborative aims to increase support for community-engaged scholarship in the participating schools and in health professional schools nationally. Campus teams reflecting such key stakeholders as community partners, provosts, deans, department chairs, promotion & tenure committees and faculty members will convene for the first annual meeting of the Collaborative from February 16-18, 2005 at the Vanderbilt Center for Better Health in Nashville, TN. The teams will be supported in their campus change efforts through ongoing opportunities for training, technical assistance and information-sharing. Strategic partnerships with national organizations will facilitate the dissemination of lessons learned to the broader health professions education community. By the conclusion of the three-year project, the schools participating in the Collaborative will have significantly changed their promotion & tenure systems to recognize and reward community-engaged scholarship and stimulated similar actions in schools across the country.

The schools participating in the collaborative, in alphabetical order, are: Auburn University Harrison School of Pharmacy, Case Western University School of Nursing, Indiana University School of Dentistry, Loma Linda University School of Public Health, University of Cincinnati College of Allied Health Sciences, University of Colorado School of Pharmacy, University of Massachusetts Worcester School of Nursing, University of Minnesota Academic Health Center, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill School of Dentistry and Vanderbilt University School of Medicine.

Community-Campus Partnerships for Health welcomes suggestions of key articles, reports, people and programs that can inform the Collaborative's work. Questions and suggestions may be sent to program director Jen Kauper-Brown by e-mail: jenbr@u.washington.edu, by phone: 206/543-7954, by fax: 206-685-6747 or by mail: UW Box 354809, Seattle, WA 98195-4809.

Stay connected with the project and related work through the Community-Engaged Scholarship electronic discussion group at <https://mailman1.u.washington.edu/mailman/listinfo/comm-engagedscholarship>. Project updates and reports will also be posted on the CCPH website as they become available at <http://www.ccpb.info>.

Community-Campus Partnerships for Health (CCPH) is a nonprofit membership organization that promotes health through partnerships between communities and higher educational institutions. Founded in 1996, CCPH is a growing network of over 1000 communities and campuses that are collaborating to promote health through service-learning, community-based participatory research, broad-based coalitions and other partnership strategies. These partnerships are powerful tools for improving health professional education, civic engagement and the overall health of communities. CCPH advances its mission through information dissemination, training and technical assistance, research and evaluation, policy development and advocacy, and coalition-building. Learn more about CCPH at <http://www.ccpb.info>.

The Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) is a unit of the Office of Policy Planning and Innovation, and is contained within the Office of Postsecondary Education, U.S. Department of Education. Established by the Higher Education Amendments of 1972, FIPSE's mandate is to improve postsecondary educational opportunities across a broad range of concerns. Through its primary vehicle, the Comprehensive Program grant competition, FIPSE seeks to support the implementation of innovative educational reform ideas, to evaluate how well they work, and to share the lessons learned with the larger education community. Learn more about FIPSE at <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/fipse/index.html>.