

# The Health Disparities Service-Learning Collaborative

Reducing health disparities by engaging schools and graduate programs of public health in authentic service-learning partnerships with communities

*An initiative of Community-Campus Partnerships for Health funded by a Learn and Serve consortia grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service*





# Meeting Goals

Develop shared understanding of project goals

Build knowledge about what service-learning is and how it can help deepen understanding and action around eliminating health disparities

Begin to develop a culture of collaboration and shared learning

Develop a Collaborative-wide plan for training/technical assistance for the year ahead



# Meeting Agenda

Welcome & Introduction

Project overview

Health disparities

Service-learning

Collaborative problem-solving

Culture of collaboration

# Goals

Engage PH students in sustained, longitudinal SL experiences that make substantial contributions to reducing health disparities and equip them with community-based public health competencies

Engage PH faculty members in sustained, longitudinal SL and CBPR with community stakeholders that make substantial contributions to reducing health disparities and allow them to meet the promotion and tenure expectations of their universities

Build capacity for S/GPH and community partners to engage each other as authentic partners and collaboratively implement effective SL programs

*Corporation for*  
NATIONAL &  
COMMUNITY  
SERVICE 

“The Corporation for National and Community Service plays a vital role in supporting the American culture of citizenship, service and responsibility. We are a catalyst for change and champion for the ideal that every American has skills and talents to give. The Corporation is the nation’s largest grantmaker supporting service and volunteering.”



“Learn and Serve America supports and encourages service-learning throughout the United States, and enables over one million students to make meaningful contributions to their community while building their academic and civic skills. By engaging our nation’s young people in service-learning, Learn and Serve America instills an ethic of lifelong community service.”



# Mission

To promote health through partnerships between communities and higher educational institutions





# Defining community

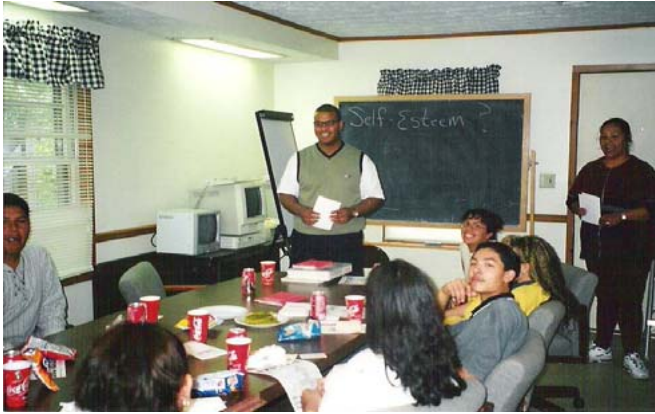
*CCPH board of directors, 2005*

What we mean by “community” is dynamic and inclusive; there is no “one” definition of community.

Community need not be defined solely by geography. It can refer to a group that self-identifies by age, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, disability, illness or health condition.

It can refer to a common interest or cause, a sense of identification or shared emotional connection, shared values or norms, mutual influence, common interest, or commitment to meeting a shared need.

Institutions and individuals based out of institutions can be “the community” in certain situations. Grassroots organizations and community residents can be “the community” in certain situations.



# Defining community

*CCPH board of directors, 2005*

Defining “community” in a community-campus partnership is more about the process of asking questions than about a strict definition of who “is” community or “represents” community:

“Are those most affected by the problem at the table? Are community members at the table? Are those who have a stake in the issue being addressed at the table? Do they play decision making roles?”

The purpose of the partnership drives the definition, therefore each effort must ask for the definition of community.



# CCPH Principles of Partnership

- Partners have agreed upon mission, values, goals and measurable outcomes for the partnership
- The relationship between partners is characterized by mutual trust, respect, genuineness, and commitment
- The partnership builds upon identified strengths and assets, and addresses needs
- Power is balanced among partners and resources are shared



# CCPH Principles of Partnership

- There is clear, open and accessible communication between partners
- Roles, norms and processes for the partnership are established with the input and agreement of all partners
- There is feedback to, among and from all stakeholders in the partnerships
- Partners share the credit for accomplishments
- Partnerships take time to develop and evolve



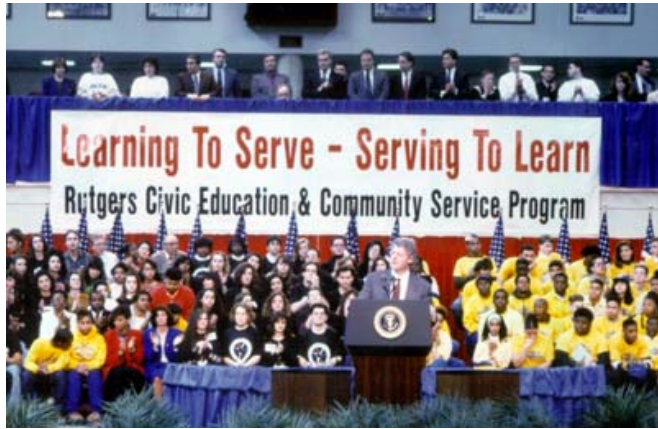
# Service-Learning

- Structured learning experience that combines community service with preparation and reflection
- Students learn about the context in which the service is provided, the connection between the service and their academic course work, and their roles as professionals and community members



# Service-Learning

- Balance between service & learning
- Addresses community-identified concerns and broad determinants of health
- Integral involvement of community partners
- Reciprocal learning
- Reflective practice
- Community engagement & social change



# Subgrants

- \$23K/year for three years, beginning January 2007
- 5% indirect rate (CNCS limit)
- 2:1 match in cash or in-kind (CNCS requires match)
- Funding must support service-learning in public health education linked to elimination of racial and ethnic health disparities
  - Including service-learning activities connected to Martin Luther King Jr. Day/Week of Service



## **Sub-Grantees**

Morgan State University

San Jose State University

University of Arizona

University of Arkansas

University of Hawaii

University of Nebraska at Omaha

Virginia Commonwealth University



# Sub-Grant Activities

Creating and expanding SL courses and programs

Integrating SL into courses and practica

Strengthening SL infrastructure

Supplementing SL through Federal Work-Study

Creating collaborations

Providing training

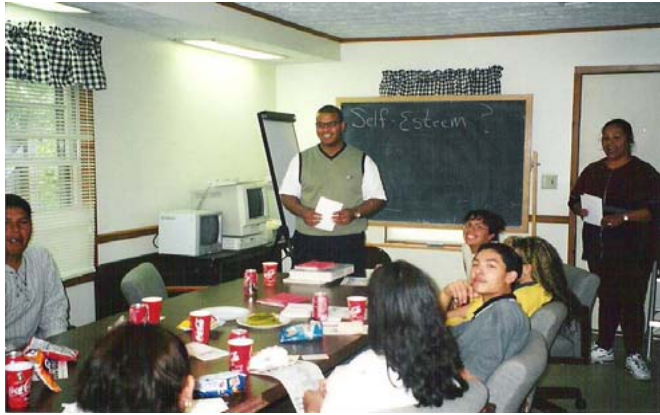
Supporting CBPR projects that involve students and  
academic credit

Developing interdisciplinary SL models



# Additional Components

- Expert consultation
- Sub-grantee meeting at April 2007 CCPH conference
- Sub-grantee meeting at Nov. 2007 APHA conference
- Teleconferences
- Collaborative website and listserv
- Assessment & evaluation
- Dissemination



# Accountability & Assessment

- Six month financial reports
- Annual self-assessment and progress report
- Annual CNCS online reporting form
- Conference calls
- Common evaluation instruments



# Resources

CCPH

<http://www.ccph.info>

CNCS

<http://www.cns.gov>

Learn and Serve Program

<http://learnandserve.org>

National SL Clearinghouse

<http://servicelearning.org>

MLK Jr. Day of Service:

<http://www.mlkday.gov/>

CCPH Summer Service-Learning Institute, July 20-23,. 2007

*Applications due May 15!*



# Resources

*Which additional resources would be most helpful?*

- Written resource materials
  - Compilations of model programs
  - Annotated bibliographies
- Conference calls on specific topics
- Conference calls by sub-group to discuss issue and challenges particular to the group (i.e., community partners, faculty members)