



Community-Campus Partnerships for Health

Transforming Communities & Higher Education

SIZABANTWANA PROJECT RECEIVES 8th ANNUAL COMMUNITY-CAMPUS PARTNERSHIPS FOR HEALTH AWARD

June 12, 2009 – Community-Campus Partnerships for Health (CCPH) is delighted to announce the **Sizabantwana Project from KwaZulu Natal, South Africa** as the recipient of the 8th Annual CCPH Award. The award recognizes exemplary partnerships between communities and higher educational institutions that build on each other's strengths to improve higher education, civic engagement, and the overall health of communities. The intent of the award is to highlight the power and potential of community-campus partnerships as a strategy for social justice. It honors partnerships that are striving to achieve the systems and policy changes needed to overcome the root causes of health, social and economic inequalities.

Selected from a highly competitive pool of nominations, the Sizabantwana Project is the first international recipient of the CCPH Annual Award. This grass-roots project, developed through a partnership between the University of KwaZulu Natal School of Psychology and twenty primary schools in the Edendale and Imbali township area, aims to build educator capacity to address psycho-social issues in their school communities. In South Africa, many primary schools struggle with educational challenges that are compounded by the context of deep poverty and HIV and AIDS. In the Sizabantwana Project, meaning “helping children” in isiZulu, school educators and university psychologists first came together twelve years ago to form a support group for educators. These support groups became the catalyst for educators to address problems they see in their classrooms and work to improve health and education outcomes. Accepting the award on behalf of the Sizabantwana Project are Carol Mitchell from the University of KwaZulu Natal School of Psychology and Ms. Hlengiwe Mcwabe from Ndlelayabasha Primary School.

In announcing the Sizabantwana Project as this year’s award recipient, CCPH Interim Executive Director Sarena Seifer highlighted several remarkable elements of this partnership, including its strong partnership principles and the profound transformation that has occurred in the educators themselves. “The Sizabantwana model is founded on principles of respect for the capacity of educators, respect for the educator’s local knowledge as community members, and a belief that people are able to generate their own solutions,” she noted. Mitchell, a founding member of the project, explains, “The project is essentially owned by the educators themselves who have come to recognize their own expertise through the Sizabantwana journey. This is clearly demonstrated through the fact that many of the educators now offer their own workshops to educate other educators on various issues.”

Through the Sizabantwana Project support group, a number of successful interventions have been undertaken. These include a collaboration with a local hospital to provide care for students who are referred by Sizabantwana educators, the creation of vegetable gardens at the schools, the development of a widows’ support group, the creation of a service-learning program that pairs

university students with children in need of additional support, and the mobilization of resources for students dealing with learning difficulties and issues of sexual abuse.

The Sizabantwana Project demonstrates the power of partnerships to overcome challenges and create true transformation in individuals and communities. Mitchell adds, “Community-campus partnerships facilitate innovation which can only be born from different perspectives and from different contexts. This is instrumental in combating the complexity of South Africa’s challenges.”

Nomination guidelines for the 2010 CCPH Award will be released in Fall 2009 and posted online at www.ccpb.info. Partnerships may nominate themselves and need not be members of CCPH. Nominations are accepted from any country or nation.

For more information about CCPH or the CCPH annual award, contact CCPH by email at ccphuw@u.washington.edu or visit <http://www.ccpb.info>

For more information on this year’s CCPH annual award winner, contact Carol Mitchell at: +27 33-260-6054 or mitchellc@ukzn.ac.za

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Since 1997, Community-Campus Partnerships for Health has been promoting health (broadly defined) through partnerships between communities and higher educational institutions. We are a growing network of over 1,800 communities and campuses across the U.S., Canada and increasingly the world that are collaborating to promote health through community-based participatory research, service-learning, broad-based coalitions and other partnership strategies. We are tied together by our commitment to social justice and our passion for the power of partnerships to transform communities and academe. Learn more about CCPH on our website at www.ccpb.info. To become a member, visit <http://depts.washington.edu/ccph/members.html>



The Sizabantwana Project aims to build educator capacity to address psycho-social issues in their school communities



Carol Mitchell accepts the 2009 CCPH Annual Award on behalf of the Sizabantwana Project. CCPH board members, left to right, are Renee Bayer, Dick Redman and Ella Greene-Moton



Sizabantwana Coordinator Hlengiwe Mcwabe accepts the CCPH Annual Award on behalf of the the Sizabantwana Project