Taking the Mountain to Mohammed: A Dental Residency Example
Blooper Session ~ Partnership Assessment & Improvement
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This workshop’s goal was to help educator’s develop strategies to successfully implement and evaluate service-learning programs. The workshop used the Community AEGD program at Columbia University as an example. This program’s outcomes were presented and challenges faced during implementation were examined and discussed. Participants had the opportunity to share their own experiences and discussed other implementation and outcome options.

Harlem United Community AIDS Center Inc.’s goal is to create a healthy and healing community to enhance physical, emotional, and mental health for individuals living with AIDS. The Center uses an interdisciplinary approach to provide comprehensive care in a community setting (one-stop shop). Using the Center as an example, the presenters discussed the basics of initiating a service-learning program. Benefits of service-learning discussed included its ability to enhance the learning process of students, faculty, and community, its use in all aspects of health, and the transformational learning experiences it often produces.

Four initial steps of beginning a service-learning project were discussed. These were implementing a partnership, educating partners, adapting curriculum (learning objectives must fit the needs of the community and incorporate reflection exercises), and evaluating the effort (examining student learning, community and institutional impact, quality of education and service collaboration, and the health of the community). Methods of evaluation discussed included program evaluations (quality surveys, community surveys, satisfaction surveys, alumni surveys) and participant evaluations (enter/exit surveys, performance evaluations, reflection).