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Georgia Southern Professors Receive Community Health Needs Assessment Grant

June 18, 2012



Georgia Southern University Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health professors have been awarded a grant to conduct a community health needs assessments and assist certain critical access and small rural hospitals with Prospective Payment Systems. They will conduct health needs assessments for 18 critical access and small rural hospital communities as identified by the State Office of Rural Health (SORH).

“Community Health Assessment is essential to the practice of public health,” said Dr. Stuart Tedders. “Specifically, it is a planned and systematic approach to profiling health needs and assets in a population. In order for key leaders and decision-makers in any community to initiate change, a comprehensive analysis of the population is the first step. This grant will afford us the opportunity to provide valuable information to the 18 hospitals participating in this initiative so that they may take the appropriate steps to improve the health of their community.” The approximately \$181,000 grant from the Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH) will fund one year of contract work by Dr. Stuart Tedders and Dr. Raymona Lawrence. The assessment is being conducted to identify, prioritize, and implement a strategy to meet the community needs.



Dr. Lawrence stated, “It is an honor to assist these hospitals in determining the needs of their communities. Empowering rural communities to better address the needs of the populations they serve is our passion here at the Georgia Southern. We hope to do this by utilizing an evidence-based approach to design community specific health programs.”

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