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Georgia Southern Examines LHDs Role in Nonprofit Hospitals' Community Health Needs Assessment

May 15, 2018



Health care and public health industries have historically operated in siloes, with distinct and often contradictory approaches to health. Public health has traditionally focused on ensuring healthy outcomes and their equitable distribution in population subgroups through essential public health services consistent with public health agency mandates and community priorities. By contrast, health care providers have arguably operated as part of an industrial medical complex focused primarily on treatment and cure rather than prevention. Several recent developments have converged to encourage health care and public health to focus on population health, leading to cooperation between strange bedfellows toward this common goal.

[“Local Health Departments’ Role in Nonprofit Hospitals’ Community Health Needs Assessment,”](#) was recently published in the American Journal of Public Health.

Dr. Gulzar Shah, Department Chair for Health Policy and Management at the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health Georgia Southern University was the author of the editorial.

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JPHCOPH Students Present at The Eagle Showcase: Excellence in Service-Learning

May 15, 2018



The Eagle Showcase: Excellence in Service-Learning took place on April 18, 2018 in Williams Center, GSU. Several undergraduate and graduate students from various GSU colleges participated in this effort organized by the Office of Leadership and Community Engagement and The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi to celebrate student and faculty contributions to the university and local community.

Swaha Pattanaik, Linda Baffo, Sarbesh Pandeya, and Kristina Harbaugh won first place for their poster titled “Supporting Affordable Dental Care for Vulnerable Residents of Bulloch County.” The winning team gained the service-learning experience in partnership with the Hearts and Hands Clinic, during summer last year, in PUBH 9135 Public Health Funding and Grants course instructed by Dr. Yelena Tarasenko.

The team of Ashley Mitchell, Katrina Brantley, Alicia Brown, LaTrina Davis, Robbie Howard (presenter), Brandon Leftwich, and Tamara Wright won second place for their poster titled “Hearts, Hands, and Service: Student Reflections on Their Service Learning Experience.”

Our kudos also go to the team of Amber Erickson, Jessica Grippo Pavlick, Gurleen Roberts, Kristie Waterfield (presenter), Abraham Deng, Marie-Kaye Seya, Shobana Jayaraman, and Chen Mo. They showcased fruitful results of their summer learning and making a difference for the local community in the poster titled “Let’s Do This Together: Expansion of Hearts and Hands Diabetes Care.”

Other projects from our college included the work “From Surviving to Thriving: A Strategic Plan for Space to Thrive” presented by Kristie Waterfield, Maureen Akubu-Odero, Pascal Felix, Justin Savage, and Chantavious Wyatt. They completed their service learning project in PHLD 9333 Health Organizations Strategic and Contingency Planning course this spring.

Finally, Maria Olivas, mentored by Dr. Moya Alfonso, presented on Dr. Alfonso’s integration of service learning into her courses. Dr. Alfonso’s ongoing project is titled “Assessing Needs and Assets of Adults in a Former Slave Community: The First Step to Addressing Health Disparities.”

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