

Kids into Health Careers

La Salle University School of Nursing and Health Sciences
Philadelphia PA

**Public Health Nurses Developing
Linkages with Middle School Adolescents
Regarding Options for Health Careers**

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Background Information

- La Salle University School of Nursing and Health Sciences (SONHS) is located in a private urban Catholic University
- Currently has 800+ undergraduate students enrolled in full-time and part-time nursing programs and 200 students in MSN tracts
- SONHS additionally has programs in undergraduate nutrition and undergraduate and graduate speech-language-hearing science
- La Salle Neighborhood Nursing Center (LSNNC) is a wellness nursing center that is a division of the SONHS

Needs Assessment

- Projected that 3.1 million *new* healthcare positions will be available by year 2010
- 2.2 million positions will be vacant to replace *retiring* healthcare workers
- It is estimated that by the year 2020, there will be a shortage of 800,000 nurses in the healthcare workforce

Addressing this Concern

- HRSA Bureau of Health Professions encouraged community based organizations to develop linkages with adolescents from diverse backgrounds
- SONHS applied for and was awarded a grant from the Division of Nursing, Bureau of Health Professions, HRSA
- 3 year grant
 - Year 1 (2004-2005)
 - Year 2 (2005-2006)
 - Year 3 (2006-2007)

Objectives of the Linkage

Encourage and inform minority and disadvantaged youth of:

- Educational opportunities in the health professions
- Career opportunities in the health professions

And assist in preparing for education in healthcare professions

“Kids into Health Careers” Curriculum

- Developed based upon HRSA’s existing curriculum
- Key components are:
 1. There are abundant job opportunities in health care
 2. Qualifying for healthcare positions is rewarding
 3. Financial aid is available
 4. Healthcare careers fill a critical need in communities where inadequate care is received by minorities and disadvantaged populations

Projections

- Year 1
6 schools and 125 students, parents and teachers/administrators
- Year 2
10 schools and 250 students, parents and teachers/administrators
Plan summer camp
- Year 3
14 schools and 350 students, parents and teacher/administrators
Implement summer camp

Reality

- Year 1
Program planned, administration change,
1 career day
- Year 2
12 schools and 551 students, parents and
teacher/administrators
Summer camp implemented
- Year 3
14 schools and 669 students, parents and
teachers/administrators

Outreach Activities

- School nurses and principals: letters and phone calls to introduce the program
- Local schools and recreation centers: site visits to introduce the program
- Brochures and flyers distributed to both venues

Educational Activities

- KIHC offered at
 - middle schools during classroom period, assemblies and career days
 - after school programs
 - school health fairs
- Sessions were offered once at each site and lasted for 45 minutes to an hour

Nuts and Bolts of the Program

- Powerpoint presentation
- Video
- Brochure
- Healthcare word find puzzle
- Healthcare career questionnaire
- Healthcare word scramble
- Healthcare crossword puzzle
- Quiz

Highlights of the Program Content

- What are health careers?
- Examples of traditional and Nontraditional Health Careers
- Places of employment
- Academic requirements
- Sources of financial aid
- Benefits of a career in health care
- Sources of additional information

Incentives

- Prizes were given to the students who correctly answered the quiz questions
- Snacks were given to the class at the end of the presentation

Summer Camp Experience

- A week long health care camp took place on campus at LaSalle University in July 2006
- 11 children in grades 6-8 attended
- Camp activities included:
 - CPR training
 - Health professional guest speakers
 - Mock disaster drill

Summer Camp Experience

- More camp activities

Use of SIM man in the School of
Nursing and Health Sciences

Learning Resource Center

Journaling

Scrapbooking

Stethoscopes for each child

Awards ceremony

Challenges

- Assemblies were too large to keep the children's attention
- Environmental factors in classrooms e.g. heat
- Substitute teachers lacked classroom control
- Lack of available technical equipment
- Flexibility needed in case of fire drills, shortened class periods, behavior problems, technical difficulties
- Recommend conducting classes until April in the school year

Nursing Students to the Rescue

- In Year 3, several undergraduate Nursing students updated the KIHC powerpoint and presented the program in several middle schools
- Nursing students
 1. were very computer savvy and created attractive powerpoint presentations
 2. had a good rapport with the students

Replication

- Seek funding opportunities at local and regional levels
- Utilize undergraduate nursing students for KIHC presentations
- Utilize undergraduate students in other health career majors for KIHC presentations
- Partner with local schools, church groups, boys and girls clubs and rec centers for program implementation

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