



Report of Project Activities

Department of Labor and Workforce Development
Division of Business Partnerships



DENALI TRAINING FUND

PROGRESS REPORT

NAME OF ORGANIZATION: University of Alaska
NAME OF PROJECT: Allied Health Training Phase III
REPORT PERIOD: April 1, 2007 – June 30, 2007

PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Community Health Aide/Practitioner (CHAP) Program:

CHAP Distance Education workshop was held April 26th for the faculty of the four Training Centers. CHAP Forum for Community Health Aides and Community Health Practitioners was held April 23-27, 2007. The Forum provided individuals with CME components and 1 UAF credit in CHP 250 "Current Issues in Rural Health Care. Community Health Aides and Practitioners were provided individual student transcript review and advising toward their Associate of Applied Science degree. Also, an academic team competition event was held on Friday of Forum week, using some of the materials being developed for the Anatomy Study CD.

Academic Liaison Link between UAF and CHAP:

1. CHAP Liaison, Linda Curda, visited the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation CHAP program to assist them with updating their student records regarding the CHP's coursework toward their Associate of Applied Science degrees. Ms. Curda met with the UAF Bristol Bay Campus and CHAP personnel to re-establish a local working team for student advising and assisting with degree completion. There has been significant turnover of staff at both the CHAP program and campus.

2. Implemented a new Course Registration form and course transmittal system for processing the CHA Basic Training course series: CHP 131 Session I (8 credits), CHP 132 Session II (8 credits), CHP 133 Session III (8 credits) and CHP 134 Session IV (8 credits) when the forms come from the four statewide CHAP Training Centers. From April 1, 2007 – June 30, 2007 the following numbers of students completed each session and received a salary increase from their regional health corporation.

Session I (CHP 131) = 20 students
Session II (CHP 132) = 5 students
Session III (CHP 133) = 10 student
Session IV (CHP 134) = 24students

3. Working with Instructional Design team to create web-based degree audit system which will interface with CRCD Health Programs student database. The database imports data from UAF Banner system. In the past the degree audit paperwork has been completed by

hand. The new database-driven system will improve efficiency and accuracy of tracking student academic progress, and expand academic advising efforts of CHAP Academic Liaison.

4. Partnerships for the CHAP program are strong as evidenced by the contributions exhibited in student support. Over 16 Corporations supported their employees to receive training by funding \$47,200 in travel to instruction, \$9520 in tuition support and \$196,560 in paid time off during training.

Medical Office-Health Care Reimbursement (HCR):

During the Spring 2007 semester statewide students completed 444 credit hours in HLTH courses leading to HCR certificate or other Allied Health certificate. Of the 8 statewide students who graduated with HCR certificate since Summer 2005, 5 of those students took courses from CRCDC Health Programs faculty. Industry partnership in rural Alaska is strong. The following 22 industry partners have participated and have employed HCR students before their graduation

- Aleutian Pribilof Islands Assoc.
- Council of Athabascan Tribal Gov
- Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corp
- Central Peninsula General Hospital
- US Air Force
- Alaska Timber Insurance Exchange
- Bristol Bay Area Health Corp
- Fairbanks Memorial Hospital
- Ketchikan General Hospital
- Norton Sound Health Corp
- Interior Alaska Orthopedic & Sports Medicine
- Ninilchik Traditional Council
- Tanana Chiefs Conference
- Eastern Aleutian Tribes
- Kenaitze Den'ina Clinic
- Central Peninsula General Hospital
- Frontier Community Svc
- SEARHC
- Kenaitze Den'ina Clinic
- Mt Sanford Tribal Consortium
- Cook Inlet Tribal Council
- Basset Army Hospital

About 80% of students receive support from their employers (in the form of tuition, books, workspace, computer use, time off, raise, or promotion). This employer support totals to \$97,422, with \$50,752 in paid time to learn, \$37,830 in tuition dollars, and \$8,840 in textbook purchases.

The distance-delivered HCR program has been delivered to more than fifty communities across the State of Alaska. Courses are delivered using a combination of Blackboard and Elluminate live platforms. Course documents, textbook information, assignments, syllabi, health careers information, and all other course information are stored in Blackboard and are accessible by students twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week. Because student feedback regarding the value of these programs has been extremely positive, it is not recommended that any changes be made.

Dental Assisting:

This quarter, DA131 Essentials of Dentistry is being piloted. We continue discussions with the tribal dental clinic managers about how to serve their needs.

The .5 faculty position taught 2 on campus courses spring semester formerly taught by one of the full time faculty. She was then released to teach 2 distance classes as planned including the pilot of the Essentials course listed above. She is also teaching Biomedical and Dental Sciences to on-campus students in order to continue improving the quality of the course. The next time it is offered will be using distance delivery methods.

After further interaction with Tribal dental programs, it appears that full semester courses may not meet their immediate needs but possibly Continuing Education classes with similar content that has already been developed would better serve the Dental Health Aide program's, assisting and hygiene recertification needs.

Community Wellness Advocate Program:

Two new tracks of study are being developed to expand course offerings: CWA is looking at integrating as an Occupational Endorsement, and articulation with the current UAS Health Sciences AAS Degree. This is continuing to be worked on between the CWA instructor and the Juneau UAS Campus Management.

The Summer 2007 has an enrollment of 9 students. The next residency is taking place September 10-14, 2007 on the UAS-Sitka Campus. Recruitment is taking place for the Fall 2007. At this time, eight students have indicated that they will be registering for Fall 2007.

We are continuing to work on a curriculum revision with UAS to integrate UAS AAS Health Sciences to facilitate transfer into higher level degree programs. Ongoing discussions are taking place regarding proposals for new Occupational Endorsements for CWA-Injury Prevention tracks. The master 6 year calendar for the CWA program is on track with the exception of the Health Promotion for Elders course for which we are continuing to obtain funding sources.

Trainee Success - UAA: The Coordinator completed her 3rd quarter working with our distance students. She has created an online orientation "community" for over 120 students. This Blackboard online site gives students basic information on the University system, helps them with important dates and contacts, introduces faculty to them, explains simply how to navigate in Blackboard and helps them connect directly to her if they have questions. She also created an eNewsletter which they receive through UAA email each month. She has assisted more than 100 students. This includes the above descriptions as well as registering online, usually by telephone while she and the student are online. She has worked to create student tracking database information, for distance programs across the Allied Health programs, that allows much more accurate reporting. Faculty have commented about how helpful her direct support to students has been.

Trainee Success – UAF:

Training Success Coordinator continues focus on recruiting new students and marketing the program in rural areas. The coordinator also attended a two-day coding training conference in Anchorage and a three-day IT Educause seminar in San Francisco. Coordination of outreach efforts and procedures statewide with the other training success coordinators is a continuing process.

An introduction to BlackBoard and Elluminate Live on CD was produced and updated in May 2007. It will be sent to all new students starting in September 2007. The UAF CRCDC Health toll free number is included with the CD and all students are being asked to call in and speak to the training success coordinator for introductory information and support.

Majority of time has been spent assisting with coordinating the three week Health Care Academy in Galena in June 2007. We started out with 14 students, and 12 students finished the program and went on to pass the standard ETT exam.

UAF Northwest Campus offered HLTH F107 Nurse Aide Training for local CNA students. Nine students received funding for textbooks and the cost of the state CNA examination.

Trainee Success – UAS:

Fifteen students from Southeast Alaska attended the Village Health Occupations Program in Sitka May 1st. 2007. A workshop about the Allied Health programs was presented during an evening session. And the coordinator traveled to Prince of Wales Island to provide UAS Allied Health Presentations to the following schools: Craig, Klawock, Hydaburg, and Thorne Bay. We were on the Island from May 14-16th 2007.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT REPORTING PERIOD:**Community Health Aide/Practitioner (CHAP) Program:**

1. Continue key activity for 2007 - Curriculum Revision: Data collection and analysis of current clinical caseload '06 review (patient encounters) statewide to guide the updating/revision process of the CHA Basic training (UAF CHP 131-134 courses) curriculum. Progress to date: ANTHC Epidemiology Center is developing a database with the ANTHC CHAP Training Center and State of Alaska facilitating data collection from tribal health organizations who have not submitted data per project proposal.
2. Continue to work with the Instructional Designer to create a CD for studying anatomy and function for CHAs/CHPs. Use the 2006 CHAM anatomy content, supplemented with information from my text "Anatomy, Function and Medical Language", to design a learning and study "games" CD (incorporate Study Mate software) which will have CME credit. Plan to distribute to all 180 village clinics and training centers.

Medical Office-Health Care Reimbursement (HCR):a) Retention Rate

Because the certificate program is described by industry and students as being "too long", many students selectively enroll in courses of interest to them with no intention of

becoming degree-seeking students. For this reason, the retention rate is low. They do however complete enough courses to prepare for the National exam for coders and typically do well at this. The most recent exam rate was reported in subsequent reports. In an effort to improve graduation and retention rates, the distance-delivered HCR program has proposed two Occupational Endorsement programs. If implemented, these programs will allow students to earn credentials more quickly, increasing the likelihood that students will return after one semester and will attend consistently from semester to semester (rather than sporadically over a period of years).

b) Trend in Number of Graduates

Six students have graduated from the distance-delivered HCR program during the past 2 years; an additional student graduated May 2007. It is anticipated that this number will rise slowly. Because the distance-delivered program is relatively new, students in the program are new. Students usually work full-time and are not typically able to take more than 2 classes at a time. For this reason, it is anticipated that the number of program graduates will not begin to rise for several semesters, when new students have had an opportunity to complete their course of study. Implementation of the proposed Occupational Endorsement Programs would result in a more sudden and drastic rise in program graduates.

New Pilot to Increase overall Course Enrollments:

Fall 2007 semester CRCDD Health Programs will pilot AK ICE (Alaska Internet Course Exchange) in all CRCDD HLTH courses. AK ICE is an online data base system for sharing seats in distance delivered courses. Although course sharing has been happening for many years, AK ICE facilitates the mechanics of the process. The goal of using AK ICE is to increase student enrollment, reduce last minute course cancellations due to low enrollment, and in the bigger picture, to be able to offer more variety and quality of courses to students in CRCDD region. As an incentive each campus that signs up to do this will also receive both 20% of the tuition and 100% of the credits that their enrollment brings.

Community Wellness Advocate Program:

An integration proposal to include the CWA has an Occupational Endorsement and an UAS AAS. Health Sciences transfer to a higher degree will be worked on. We are continuing to recruit for the Fall 2007 semester.

The Village Health Occupation Program has taken place and we have received a new student as a result of this program.

Dental Assisting:

Discussions with the ANTHC Dental Health Aide Program began re: the recertification requirements. A marketing campaign will occur this summer with the private dental profession outside Anchorage and Fairbanks to increase enrollment for next year's distance courses.

The fall semester course offering will be in Dental radiography, a content area most often expressed as a need by tribal programs. Spring semester will be Practice Management for the Dental Assistant.

Trainee Success at UAA:

Student recruitment, support with enrollment and ongoing retention efforts will keep the Coordinator busy next quarter as fall semester begins. The Coordinator is also working over the summer and into next quarter with a major Allied Health Sciences Student Tracking Database project being built with a consultant and the UAA Institutional Research Office. It will enhance the reporting capacity for distance students mentioned above.

Trainee Success at UAF:

Rural visits will continue for recruitment of new students as well as to meet face to face with students in the program. More outreach and coordination with Native Corporations and Health groups is planned. The new instructional CD for Blackboard and Elluminate Live will be reviewed and updated as needed. Other instructional CD possibilities will be explored.

Trainee Success at UAS:

Student Success plan is the continued work on the Blackboard site orientation for the 2007 year. Research and development will be a major focus for the upcoming months.

The coordinator will be involved in planning for College Fair Allied Health presentation to take place in Sitka October 25, 2007 for which we will have 800 High School Students in attendance.

There will be a planning meeting in August 2007 to set priorities for the year Student Success Coordinators of all the campuses. Our top four priorities that have been researched will be reported out by the Coordinators. We will continue to work on our blackboard orientation site. 1). Remote Native Students need greater support. 2). Advising is difficult. 3). Students may not feel like the system is prepared to support them. 4). Students don't know how to access tech based services.

We have designated 2 Student Success Coordinators to start working on our top two priorities for the year. Lily and Bob will be working on number 1 and 3, while Sarah and Lynda will be working on number 2 and 4. Each Coordinator will work on their above mentioned projects. The Coordinators will report research findings and continued work on the blackboard site.

PROBLEMS, DELAYS OR CONCERNS EXPERIENCED:**Medical Office-Health Care Reimbursement (HCR):**

There remain issues in getting the Occupational Endorsements for Coding and Billing as identified above.

Shawn Russell has replaced Dr. Pamela Warren at the Rural Allied Health Coordinator. Ms. Russell previously held the position of Term Assistant Professor for Allied Health. Recruitment activities have begun to fill that vacant position.

Dental Assisting:

Engaging the tribal dental program's dental assisting employees to become students and complete these courses successfully may be more difficult than originally predicted. This quarter it has become clearer that the semester model may be appropriate in future years, but first the system needs simpler, more direct training to meet short term needs in order to make the connection between the two systems.

Community Wellness Advocate Program:

The implementation of the Health Promotion with Elders course has been delayed due to funding issues.

Trainee Success at UAS:

Funding for travel to present Allied Health programs to all the Southeast High Schools is a problem.

POSSIBLE PROBLEM RESOLUTIONS AND TIMEFRAMES:

Medical Office-Health Care Reimbursement (HCR):

We have discussed having a more equal number of rural and urban industry representatives joining the TVC Advisory Board so that their voice can be included. This will then serve for all of Allied Health and not just at the Tanana Valley Clinic.

Work will begin this summer on the certificate and Associates as described above. Efforts will also continue to get the OE through the system, as well as to create a more solid program overall.

Dental Assisting: Use some content from existing distance curriculum in semester courses to produce shorter distance Continuing Education offerings. Explore interest from the private dental profession and more aggressive recruiting through marketing with first time students outside the Anchorage and Fairbanks areas.

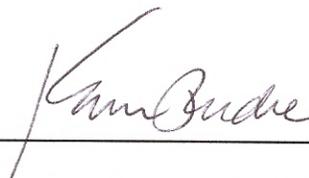
Community Wellness Advocate Program:

Continued funding for the CWA Program to include the addition of the Health Promotion for Elders course.

Trainee Success at UAS

Continue funding for the student success project to include additional funding to present workshops in the outlying Southeast Communities.

Certification: I certify that the above information is true and correct and in accordance with the terms and conditions of the agreement.



Karen Perdue, AVP - Health

7/17/07

Date