Focus on Partnerships: Message from the Dean

The College of Allied Health and Nursing is continually expanding its outreach and partnerships within our service region through the involvement of faculty, students and professional staff with community colleagues and partner organizations. The many and varied partnerships are mutually beneficial to the university and the individuals and organizations with whom we partner. Our college’s theme of Lead…Partner…Achieve speaks of the importance of combining the expertise, skills and energy of our faculty and students with the practice experience and expertise of our community partners to achieve a high level of health and wellness for our region.

We strive each day to assure that education and research are applied, active and relevant in the lives of our students and our many constituents. In this newsletter, you will read about a few of our many College of Allied Health and Nursing partnerships. These examples, and numerous other partnerships, are integral to the teaching, research and service mission of the college. Perhaps some of the examples given will resonate with you as an opportunity for greater involvement with the college, or will spark an idea for a new partnership or support opportunity. Please be in touch about ways we can connect to continue to build a meaningful network that strengthens the college and the communities we serve.

Kaye Herth, Ph.D., R.N., F.A.A.N.
Dean
College of Allied Health and Nursing

Dental Hygiene

In 2000, the Surgeon General issued a landmark report, Oral Health in America, which identified the “silent epidemic” of oral health diseases and called on oral health stakeholders to work on solutions to improve the nation’s oral health. In response, Minnesota State Mankato Dental Hygiene is proud to report that we are playing an important role by providing increased access to Oral Health Care in Southern Minnesota.

Currently, Dental Hygiene students and faculty are involved in community partnerships with the following organizations:

- Harry Meyering Center, Mankato, MN
- Head Start, Minnesota Valley Action Council
- Hillcrest Nursing Home, Mankato, MN
- Madelia/Apple Tree Dental Clinic, Madelia, MN
- Luther Nursing Home, Madelia, MN
- Open Door Dental Clinic, Mankato, MN
- Waseca Federal Prison, Waseca, MN

Similarly, Dental Hygiene students and faculty provide the following direct care services at the Minnesota State Mankato Dental Clinic in the lower level of Morris Hall Monday through Friday:

- Community Clinic (dental cleanings and exams).
- Restorative Clinic (dental fillings).
- Faculty Practice.

Dental Hygiene, in partnership with the Minnesota Dental Association and the regional dental offices, provided direct care through an annual free Give Kids a Smile program. The results of this partnership provided the following free care: 118 exams, 97 x-rays, 105 dental cleanings, 92 fluoride treatments, and 106 sealants.

Twenty-one senior Dental Hygiene students and two recent program graduates visited 42 MVAC Head Start sites from September 24 thru December 7, 2007. Under the supervision of collaborative dental hygienists these individuals provided oral assessments and fluoride varnish applications. They also presented an educational unit on oral health at the assigned sites.

The results of the site visits were remarkable!

Total Head Start enrollment: 581
Total oral assessments performed: 458 (78.82%)
Total fluoride varnish applications: 440 (75.73%)
Total children referred for further treatment: 124 (21.34%)
Family and Consumer Science

The Department of Family and Consumer Science is partnering with alumni, community, and high schools to enhance outreach into the region and share resources with community professionals and prospective students.

The Department of Family Consumer Science will sponsor a community presentation by Susan Kundrat, MS, RD, LD March 26, 2008. Ms. Kundrat is a sports nutritionist, author, founder and owner of Nutrition On The Move, Inc. Ms. Kundrat is a former dietetics graduate of the FCS department at Minnesota State University Mankato and also played basketball at the University.

The FCS department will participate in the Greater Mankato Career Expo, which is held at the Civic Center in Mankato and showcases career possibilities to area high school students. The Family Consumer Science faculty will showcase our programs and the many career options available to graduates. As another outreach to prospective students and the community, Jill Conlon will give a presentation entitled “Fashion Merchandising Careers” to area high school juniors at the Career Exploration Day held at South Central College in spring 2008.

Health Science

The Department of Health Science engages in many partnerships, which provide community service, education and support to important health initiatives. Three recent examples of these partnerships include:

The Department of Health Science is proud of its partnership with the High-Risk Alcohol and Drug Summit and the wonderful work that has been accomplished.

The Eta Sigma Gamma student organization is actively involved in dog walking at Blue Earth County Humane Society as well as the American Cancer Society Relay for Life.

The Global Health & Peace Club (GHPC) seeks to promote health and peace through local and global programs that address current issues. The members have been involved in several worthwhile events such as “The World AIDS Day in which they partnered with the Minnesota Department of Health,” National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day,” Pan-African Conference; “The World Hunger Awareness Day”, “STD Awareness Day”; involvement in the Global Health Council Conference, and Fundraising for a Health Clinic in Kenya—to mention but a few of their wonderful efforts.

Pictured below are the 2007 GHPC members: Standing left to right: Dr. Bikash Nandy, Maria V. Alexandrova, Okony Cham, Dr. John A. Romas, Meghan R. Reedy. In front: Betty Wariari, Yuba Gautam.

Continuing Education Partnerships

The College of Allied Health and Nursing Continuing Education Program builds its strength and capacity through offering most of its programs in partnership with other university, regional, or state-wide organizations. The majority of our programs are held at South Central College in North Mankato, through a long-standing partnership agreement, combining the health care program planning expertise at Minnesota State Mankato with the facilities and services available at SCC.

In Fall 2007, a newly formed partnership with the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Southeast Health Care Cluster resulted in offering two new courses on Integrative Health and Healing. The spring semester continuing education series includes a co-sponsored program on Emergency Preparedness in May, which is made possible through our involvement in the Regional Continuing Health care Education Center (ReCHEC). Another new partnership with the National League for Nursing will bring the NLN’s Preparation Course for Certification as Nurse Educators course to Mankato for the first time.

Partnerships are really the key to the success of the College’s continuing education program. Whether it’s internal partnerships to meet needs or capitalize on the expertise at the University, or external partnerships that maximize what can be offered most cost-effectively to health professionals in the region, we are always seeking new ways to build relationships and work together. Ideas for new partnerships are welcome, and can be shared by contacting the College’s Director for Continuing Education, Shirley Murray at 507-389-5194 or shirley.murray@mnsu.edu. Please also check out our website for the latest program offerings at http://ahn.mnsu.edu/continuinged/.
Human Performance

The Department of Human Performance engages students with the community in many ways, including internships, community service/service learning, and volunteer opportunities. Minnesota State Mankato Sport Management students will have an incredible opportunity to work directly with a professional sports organization this summer.

Partnering with the Minnesota Vikings in a fashion like never before, twenty-five interns composed of both graduate and undergraduate students, will be faced with the task of running the Alltel Vikings Training Camp at Blakeslee Stadium in the heart of the Minnesota State Mankato campus. Each student will receive a minimum $100 scholarship upon successful completion of the training camp. Minnesota State Mankato students and faculty in Sport Management appreciate their unique connection to the Minnesota Vikings organization and hope to continue this great relationship for years to come.

The Sport Management program also partners with the NBA Timberwolves, WNBA Lynx, NHL Wild, MLB Twins, St. Paul Saints, Mankato Moondogs, and Minnesota State University, Mankato Athletics for both internships and special events.

Developmental and Adaptive Physical Education (DAPE) students are involved in service learning activities in area school districts in which they focus on students and individuals with disabilities and physical activity. DAPE and Pedagogy faculty and students also participated in the Greater Mankato Career Expo with the College of Education.

School of Nursing

The School of Nursing is part of a consortium of four MnSCU universities (Winona, Metro, Moorhead, Mankato) offering a Doctor of Nursing Practice program, which admitted its first students in September, 2007. This exciting partnership will help increase the number of doctorally prepared nurses in the state.

The School of Nursing partners with numerous clinical sites throughout the region. These sites provide the settings in which clinical skills are gained and demonstrated by students, and the sites also benefit from the skills and enthusiasm brought by the students. An example of this is seen in a recent report published in the Janesville Argus:

School of Nursing partnerships also extend internationally. During the spring semester, Ginny Smith, a School of Nursing adjunct instructor, supervised eight senior nursing students during their Community Health Nursing Clinical in Honduras. This was a wonderfully exciting opportunity for the following students: Nina Anderson, Randi Lindsay, Jaclyn Deutsch, Nicole Skaden, Jackie Kujawa, Laura Ness, Lindsay Harrison, and Alyson Kreh. They received a total of $950 in donations towards this trip, which was distributed to the students through the Office of Financial Aid.

Pictured below are the students who benefitted from our Janesville Nursing Home Partnership:

The Cardiac Rehabilitation program continues its long-standing partnership with ISJ-Mayo to provide health and fitness program for over 40 community members annually.

Pictured below are the students who benefitted from our Janesville Nursing Home Partnership:
Recreation, Parks, & Leisure Services

The Department of Recreation, Parks and Leisure Services incorporates community opportunities into its program. These include senior research projects that benefit area organizations, along with service projects completed by students and faculty. The following are a few examples of the many ways RPLS is active throughout our region.

Dr. Joy Joyner supervises senior research projects for several community- and regional-based organizations including: the St. Peter Recreation and Leisure Services Department, the Lake Crystal Area Recreation Center, the Office of Campus Recreation, the Newman Center, the City of Carver, the New Ulm Recreation and Parks Department, and the Minnesota State Mankato Athletic Department.

Students in Dr. Jim Petersen’s classes will once again direct the MS Walk-a-thon and the Arthritis Foundation Walk-a-thon as part of the Event Management Class. They also partner with the local Kiwanis Club to provide a service experience with Camp Patterson.

Students in the Fall 2007 Clinical Aspects of Therapeutic Recreation course sponsored an adaptive recreation workshop for community members with disabilities. Approximately 15 community members hand cycled, kayaked, and did arts and crafts projects. Students also sponsored “Learning how to strength train” sessions for community members with disabilities. Students worked one-on-one with community members teaching correct techniques for various strength training exercises, identifying what muscles are worked by each exercise, and how to develop personal workout routines. The workshop and sessions were the result of collaborative efforts between the RPLS dept., ACCESS of the Mankato Community Education and Recreation Department, and SMILES (local independent living center). Finally, students in the same class will run a special event focusing on increasing physical activity levels among people with disabilities served by a local human services agency. The event will involve approximately 15 people with disabilities.

Dr. Jim Wise continues his involvement with the Mankato Area Adaptive Ski Program, where he trains volunteers, provides advice to the administrators, and teaches people with disabilities how to ski. For the first part of the year, Dr. Wise also served as the President of the Board of Directors for LEEP, a local organization that provides recreation opportunities for local residents with disabilities.

Healthcare Education Industry Partnership:

The Healthcare Education Industry Partnership (HEIP) continues to work with Minnesota’s healthcare providers and healthcare educational institutions to address workforce shortages. Over the past year, HEIP has led a Minnesota State Colleges and Universities initiative to integrate electronic medical record technology into healthcare education. This is an exciting project which is being done in partnership with the College of St. Scholastica. Over 12 campuses throughout the state are using the EMR technology to not only teach students how to utilize an EMR but also to bring education to life through the use of robust medical records which were donated by patients to be included in the system.

In addition, 2007 was an exciting year for the Minnesota Community Health Worker project, run by HEIP. Through legislative changes enacted this year, the services of qualified Community Health Workers can now be reimbursable services in certain situations. The implementing regulations are in the process of being finalized.

Several statewide conferences were held by HEIP in 2007, including a multi-state K-12 conference focused on health science teachers and partnerships between K-12 and post-secondary institutions. A statewide simulation conference attracted over 100 attendees who heard from nationally known speakers about utilizing simulation technology in education and practice.

The Mankato Simulation task force has been meeting regularly to establish the Mankato Regional Simulation Center. They have held two high fidelity training on the simulators for community and task force members. Next steps include and expansion of equipment, location of a community site to place the center and funding to continue to support the project and expand the services. The uniqueness of this project is the potential of building a community owned center with the concept of a holistic wellness center and teaching facility which would benefit all partners and the community. If you are interested in being involved in this project please contact Anne Willaert at anne.willaert@mnsu.edu.
Speech, Hearing, & Rehabilitation Services

In addition to the department’s activities within the existing Healthy Communities Partnership with Immanuel St. Joseph’s-Mayo Health System, our two programs participate in the following community outreach and partnership activities:

Communication Disorders Program:

The Twin Cities Aphasia Group. This is a partnership with the Twin Cities Strive to Thrive Program, coordinated by Minnesota State University, Mankato faculty member Dr. Cindy Busch. The Strive to Thrive program is affiliated with the MN Stoke Association. Our students work with stroke survivors and their families.

Mrs. Carol Myhre coordinates the Minnesota State Mankato Aphasia/Brain Injury Group. This is an active group that meets weekly at the Minnesota State Mankato Speech-Language Pathology/Audiology Clinic. The group holds meetings with educational themes, support, and social activities including trips. Minnesota State Mankato practicum students participate every week.

Photo from Twin Cities Aphasia Group

Dr. Patricia Hargrove leads CDIS students in the Developmental Behavior Clinic (DBC). This is a multidisciplinary team based in Blue Earth County. The team evaluates young children who are thought to be at risk for developmental delay. Our students participate on the team by evaluating speech and language development in the children who are referred to the clinic.

Mrs. Judy Kuster leads a group of students who hold regular meetings for the local chapter of the National Stuttering Foundation. This is a support and activity group for individuals who stutter.

Dr. Renee Shellum and CDIS students continue to offer hearing and middle ear screenings at various places in Southern MN including school districts, the River Hills Mall, health/wellness fairs, and at Children’s House here on the University campus.

Dr. Bruce Poburka and a group of voice clients from the Minnesota State Mankato clinic have started a support/education group for individuals with Spasmodic Dysphonia. Recent activities included a radio interview about the group and the disorder on KMSU public radio and attendance at a regional symposium in the Twin Cities which was sponsored by the National Spasmodic Dysphonia Association (NSDA).

Over the past two years, Drs. Patricia Hargrove and Bonnie Lund have worked with faculty from the University of Minnesota in the role of higher education consultants on the use of positive behavioral support for Early Childhood Special Education Programs in various parts of southern Minnesota.

Rehabilitation Counseling Program:

Consumer Satisfaction Surveys. Rehabilitation Counseling students, under the direction of Dr. Glen Peterson, conduct the annual consumer satisfaction survey for Mankato Rehabilitation Center, Inc. (MRCI)

In collaboration with State Vocational Rehabilitation Agencies, the Rehabilitation Counseling Program works closely with the State Rehabilitation Agencies to expedite the placement of students in internship experiences at the state agencies. Selected students with previous experience in the field are placed in internships while completing certain courses via distance learning. This assists the state agencies in addressing a relative shortage of rehabilitation counselors in those settings.

Rehabilitation Counseling Faculty are actively involved with a number of state and regional organizations, including the Minnesota Rehabilitation Association and the Minnesota Rehabilitation Counseling Association, in order to assist students in making necessary connections to professionals in the field.
Partnering through our College Advisory Board

This past year the CAHN Advisory Board discussed many ideas to assist in becoming more visible to prospective students. The Board toured each department within the College to learn more about the programs available and to see the students in action, utilizing the unique technology available for each discipline.

The Advisory Board is focused on expanding resources with regard to business partnerships and potential donors. The Board includes individuals from every discipline within the College. Over the past year, the Board has had the opportunity to review and submit recommendations for the college DVD, to have a dialog with the Career Development Center regarding services available as well as feedback from prospective employers.

The Board will also have the opportunity to see a demonstration of Simulation Learning, including an introduction to “Sim Man”, with discussion around curriculum adaptation for simulation learning and partnership opportunities.

The Board continues to work in partnership with the College of Allied Health and Nursing to enhance the college’s educational programs, university and community relationships, resources, and reputation to address the mission and vision of the College of Allied Health and Nursing. Our purpose is to provide guidance to the College Dean, Associate Dean, faculty, students, and his staff in the following areas:

- Identify regional and global trends and projections within society and industry that impact the College of Allied Health and Nursing.
- Identify potential, mutually beneficial, external partnerships between the College of Allied Health and Nursing and other entities outside the university.
- Identify potential service and applied research activities that would impact the general public and specific populations.
- Identify strategies to publicize the education, research, and service activities of the College.
- Identify public and private sources of funds and fund raising activities to supplement college-wide resources.

Partnering Provides Scholarships for Students

Through partnership with many generous donors, the College of Allied Health and Nursing awarded 111 scholarships to students during the 2007-08 year, for a total of $72,725.00!

Here’s how the scholarship dollars were distributed:
- Dental Hygiene: 18 scholarships were awarded (total = $6,630.00).
- Family and Consumer Science: 9 scholarships were awarded (total = $6,300.00).
- Human Performance: 7 scholarships were awarded (total = $4,545.00).
- Recreation, Parks, and Leisure Services: 3 scholarships were awarded (total = $2,500.00).
- Speech, Hearing, and Rehabilitation Services: 3 scholarships were awarded (total = $1,575.00)
- School of Nursing: 60 scholarships were awarded (total = $42,075.00).
- Additional scholarships totaling $9,100.00 were awarded throughout the College!

Partnering Only Possible with Your Involvement

The exemplary work represented in this newsletter is only possible through the generous support and involvement of our partners. Many individuals and organizations give generously to the College of Allied Health and Nursing, both through monetary and in-kind contributions. Our students benefit greatly from this support, through scholarships, clinical opportunities, internships, and volunteer experiences. In turn, the community and region benefits from the students, and ultimately from the graduates who become leaders in health and wellness programs throughout the region and beyond.

Your support is more important than ever before. Please contact our Director of Development, Lisa Meyer, at 507-389-5621 or lisa.meyer-1@mnsu.edu to learn more about ways to be involved in supporting the College of Allied Health and Nursing.

If you wish to donate to the college or any of its departments or programs through an online contribution, the details for doing this are available at: http://www.mnsu.edu/advance/giving/. Lisa Meyer (contact information above) would be happy to facilitate this process.