Changing the Face of an Institution: Creative Partnerships for Women’s Professional Development

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Changing The Face of an Institution: Creative Partnerships for Women’s Professional Development

The Catalyst

The National Library of Medicine’s traveling exhibition, Changing the Face of Medicine, celebrating America’s Women Physicians, recounts the history of the women who, working together over the past two centuries, opened the field to women. The UMMS Women’s Faculty Committee (WFC) and the Lamar Scotter Library (LSL) brought the exhibition to UMMS where it became the catalyst for bringing together faculty women with administrators, with the public, with male colleagues, with students, and with each other. Faculty development initiatives were united with the history of medicine, humanities in medicine, and women’s health research to maximize communication among all sectors of our community.

Type | Event
--- | ---
Career Development | Speaker: Dr. Lynn Eckhart
Speaker: Dr. Vivian Finn
Speaker: Dr. Christine Cassel
Research & Women’s Health | Speaker: Dr. Lucy Candib
Speaker: Dr. Judy Cocke, PhD
Speaker: Dr. Christine Cassel
History | Essay Contest
One Women Play: Elizabeth Blackwell
Humanities | Meet the Author Series: Dr. Ellen More
Meet the Author Series: Dr. Perry King
Outreach | Opening Event
Women & Medicine: Behind the Scenes Movie Series
Girl Scout Family Night
Hazardsa Event

University of Massachusetts Medical School

Patricia Franklin, MD; Heather-Lyn Haleyi, PhD;
Barbara Ingrassia, M.S.; Ellen More, PhD;
Mary Piorun, M.S.L.S.; Phyllis Pollack, MD; Elaine Martin, DA.

Creating Partnerships

Community
- Girl Scouts
- Colleges of Worcester Consortium
- Medical Societies
- Public Library
- Worcester Women’s History Project
- YWCA

Planning Committee
- Lamar Scotter Library
- Women’s Faculty Committee

School
- Diversity and Equal Opportunity Office
- Faculty Administration
- Medical Students
- Medical Education
- Public Affairs
- Science Education

Outcomes

Creative partnerships, motivated by the opportunity to host “Changing the Face of Medicine,” produced greater than expected gains for women faculty, generating new awareness and understanding of women’s accomplishments and leadership potential. Application-writing and event planning sessions forged robust working relationships among top-ranking administrators, senior and junior faculty, and staff. It also generated new memorandum of re-relationships and grant-writing collaborations. The exhibition’s national recognition helped draw a larger, more diverse and gender-balanced audience to the events. It enhanced the visibility of the WFC, as evidenced by institutional funding for women faculty to attend the AAMC-WM professional development workshops and ELAM for the first time.

Exhibition-Related Programming

Throughout the six-week-long showing, the LSL hosted a total of 14 events: appearances by national figures in women’s health research, women in academic administration and publishing, nationally known authors, and a playwright, as well as events open to the public — including an essay contest for schoolchildren co-sponsored by the Worcester Women’s History Project, movies at the Worcester Public Library, and career days for local Girl Scout troops. A mentoring session involved Dr. Catherine DeAngelis, JAMA Editor-in-Chief (and this year’s UMMS commencement speaker), with women faculty and students. In addition to the 60,000 visits made to the LSL, 750 individuals participated in these events.

Exhibit Sponsors and Web site

Lamar Scotter Library • A Legacy of Service and Learning