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Academic Health Collaborative of Worcester

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Presenter Information
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Academic Health Collaborative of Worcester

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Background

In the Spring of 2014, the Worcester Division of Public Health entered into a formal Memorandum of Understanding with Clark University to establish the Center for Public Health Practice (CPHP). Similar MOUs were extended to Worcester State University and The University of Massachusetts Medical School. The Center, now known as the Academic Health Collaborative of Worcester (AHC) addresses identified needs of the WDPH and key community stakeholders to build capacity and ultimately improve the health of the community.

Faculty and their students work directly with WDPH staff and community partners to advance the work of the Division. To allow for knowledge to be used and built upon, and to minimize research fatigue, this unique model is designed to respond to public health needs efficiently, collaboratively and in a sustained manner. The AHC aims to increase the public’s awareness on health and wellness, and increase participation in the work of all of WDPH’s service areas.

Student engagement and experiences are tailored to address identified WDPH needs including community health, emergency preparedness, environmental health, grant and programmatic needs, thereby ensuring that essential elements and domains of the Division’s Strategic Plan are addressed and implemented. Division staff and key community stakeholders, in concert with area academic faculty, serve as the foundation for the AHC and foster an academic environment for lecture, research, practice and sharing.

Goals

The Academic Health Collaborative aims to accomplish these 5 goals while using an overarching lens of community voice and inclusion in all of the work.

1. Address public health issues
2. Improve public health education
3. Retain local public health talent
4. Produce and disseminate useful knowledge
5. Create a model for public health, academic, and medical institution partnership

Learning Opportunities

- Classroom based, faculty led projects
- Campus based engagement
- Faculty led research
- Internships
- Clerkships
- Assistantships
- Consultancies
- Capstone projects
- Practicums
- Service learning
- One-time events
- Research

Dissemination


Amos, K., & Stockwell, A. (2017, July). Local Health Departments Championing Collaboration through Successful Academic Health Department Partnerships. Video presented at the annual meeting of the National Association of County and City Health Officials, Pittsburg, PA.

Get involved:

Visit the AHC online at www.academic.healthycentralma.com or reach out to the Academic Health Collaborative at ahcworcester@gmail.com for more information about getting involved!

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