

Environmental Health Information Partnership

2006—2007 EnHIP Outreach Awards

Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science – Los Angeles, CA

Environmental and Toxicological Information Outreach

This project is designed to increase the awareness of NLM online resources related to the use of toxicological, environmental, occupational, and hazardous materials/waste at Drew University. Approximately 300 individuals will be trained on how to retrieve scientific literature searches, toxicological profiles on hazardous chemicals that cause health and environmental effects, specific information about the possible effects of exposure to chemicals and biological agents, and information on common toxic substances encountered in everyday life. This project is built on the success of and inroads paved by the 2005 Small Grant Award and will be evaluated based on the number of participants and the proportional increase in interest in the use of NLM Web-based resources. This information will be obtained through personal interviews and questionnaires completed by workshop participants.

Diné College – Shiprock, NM

Gas and Oil Well Drilling Impacts on Human Health in Ante, Red Mesa, and Montezuma Creek, Utah

This project will compare the current self-reporting of health symptoms to a previous study conducted by the Navajo Division of Health in 1998 and determine if self-reported health symptoms change in relationship with distance from oil and gas production facilities. This project is being conducted through Diné College, Shiprock Campus, in collaboration with the University of New Mexico. In prior support, 125 initial surveys were collected and will be used to correlate, using GIS (geographic information systems) technology, the levels of VOCs (volatile organic compounds) and H₂S with surveyed home locations. Activities will include the development of community education and outreach on the dangers of oil/gas exposure and ways to decrease risks and promote community empowerment, and will provide input for a remedial program.

Diné College, Center for Diné Studies – Shiprock, NM

Navajo Ethno-Medical Encyclopedia (NEME) Project

This project ensures the efforts are continued to complete the *Navajo Ethno-Medical Encyclopedia* (NEME), envisioned as a 10-volume compendium and repository of traditional Navajo Indian medical and healing knowledge. Ten volumes have already been sketched in outline form. Diné students who can read and type the Navajo language will retype the old typewritten transcriptions into electronic files for permanent, accessible, and transferable storage, using the modern Navajo Microsoft Word font. Their efforts will make it more readily and immediately available for incorporation into the ongoing work of the NEME, as other efforts will continue on researching new material and on codifying and incorporating the material from the early years of the project into modern computer word processing programs.

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Florida A&M University, College of Pharmacy – Tallahassee, FL

Using NLM Online Resources to Develop a Model Health Literacy Program for Minority and Disadvantaged Communities

This project will show how the access to and the use of NLM's online resources can contribute significantly to the improvement of the health status of individuals and the entire community in which they reside. We will work with the Community Outreach and Service Learning (COSL) program of the College of Pharmacy and utilize pharmacy students to conduct workshops on providing health information and information access training at two sites in Tallahassee, Florida. Phase One of the project involved designing a workshop on health literacy, developing the formal agreements with the two targeted sites, acquisition of the hardware and agreement, and conducting training sessions on utilization. The project will now focus on Phase Two (2006- 2007), which will involve selecting random patients/patrons to follow relative to their utilization of the resources provided to them and the utility thereof. Since the COSL program requires pharmacy students to conduct a volunteer service project, this program has received tentative approval for inclusion to meet the academic requirement. Approval by the university's Institutional Review Board is required and will be secured as part of Phase Two. This phase will require approximately 12 months.

Howard University – Washington, D.C.

Healthy Homes/Healthy Bodies

This project will focus on using NLM's consumer health databases (MedlinePlus®, Tox Town®, Household Products Database, etc.) to provide the much needed educational information resources to parents to maintain a healthy and safe environment for their children. Once parents are aware of the potential dangers presented within and out of the home, environmental steps can be taken to prevent or reduce exposure to toxicants. In addition, this project will supplement the information provided by schools, parents, and communities by creating a series of day-long interactive workshops for parents and young children to jointly learn about the importance of a healthy diet and healthy eating options. Parent participation is key, so that the lessons learned will continue to be reinforced in the home. The target audience includes children ages 5-8 years old and their parents. These free workshops will include 14 children and their parents with experts from the medical community, including nonprofit organizations with a mission to educate about healthy living.

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Jackson State University – Jackson, MS

A Pre-Symposium Workshop on the Use of NLM Web-Based Resources for Biomedical and Environmental Health Research

The goal of this project is to organize a pre-symposium workshop on the use of the National Library of Medicine's Web-based resources for environmental health and biomedical sciences research and education. This workshop will be implemented as part of the Fourth International Symposium on Recent Advances in Environmental Health Research that Jackson State University (JSU) will host in 2007. The target audience will include the symposium's participants (professional scientists, faculty, and students) from JSU as well as other institutions of higher learning at the local, national, and/or international levels. It is anticipated that the implementation of this project will provide an excellent opportunity to participants to strengthen their environmental health and biomedical research capabilities, based on the new knowledge on critical health-related information gained from the workshop.

Medgar Evers College, City University of New York – New York, NY

Using NLM Online Resources to Promote Genetics and Human Genomics Education and Knowledge of Minority Urban High School Students

The goal of this project is to develop instructional materials to be used by high school students to promote knowledge about the emerging findings in genetic and DNA sciences and to promote knowledge of the issues and impact of the Human Genome Project, incorporating the Web-based resources of the National Library of Medicine. This project is designed to augment the educational community outreach objective of the Medgar Evers College Genome Education and Outreach Program in the School of Science, Health and Technology. The target audience will be the teachers and students at the Middle College High School at Medgar Evers College located in Brooklyn, NY. An important outcome of this project is to educate and disseminate information about 21st century genetics and about human genomics and related issues that affect and are relevant to the African American community--the community of the college, its public school partners, and the lay public. Genetics and genomics education of high school students are important for promoting student interest to pursue related science careers and promoting scientific literacy (genetic citizenship) among the population in general.

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Meharry Medical College – Nashville, TN

Building Health Literacy Network Capacity Among Local Community Churches in Nashville/ Davidson County, Tennessee

This project will implement a faith-based network in health literacy for Nashville/Davidson County that will reach a total of 400 members within this network. This project proposes to develop a faith-based health literacy network by expanding the use of computerized health information technology and opportunities to two additional churches during this project year. Ten sessions using a computer to access health information will be provided. Members of the selected churches are experiencing health problems associated with health disparities in incidences of hypertension, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, cancer, and intentional and unintentional injury. In addition to working with the adults of these churches, special attention will be given to empower teens and adolescents with access to health information and health technology. Built on the foundation from the 2005 EnHIOP award, this proposed activity will link four faith-based churches together in developing a faith-based health literacy network around health education and patient safety, as well as creating a collaboration consisting of public libraries located in South Nashville/Davidson County, with Meharry Medical College Science Library working with faith-based organizations.

Oglala Lakota College – Kyle, SD

Taking Charge--Living Wisely: Iksabeya a'unpi, Phase III

The goal of this project is to continue to build on the activities of the first two phases enabling the Oglala Lakota people to identify healthy lifestyles and behavior changes through exercise, eating a balanced diet, and understanding toxic chemicals and hazards in their environment. Additional activities in this phase include emphasizing the importance of oral hygiene at the Head Start Centers through developing DVDs and computer games for teaching children about oral hygiene and the importance of diet and fitness. Age-appropriate DVDs will also be made for adult students. Records will be kept on dental caries in the children at the Head Start Centers and on weight and use of fitness equipment for the college students.

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Southern University A&M College – Baton Rouge, LA

Addressing the Environmental Health Needs of Displaced Katrina Evacuees Living in a Trailer Park Using the NLM Environmental Health Information Outreach Program

The overall purpose of this project is to empower the Katrina evacuees living in Renaissance Village (manufactured housing community) with environmental health information by using NLM's environmental health information databases and resources. The School of Nursing at Southern University Agricultural and Mechanical College has adopted the Renaissance Village by using its Family Health Care Center's Mobile Health Unit (Jag Mobile) to provide health screenings, primary health care services, and referral services. Activities for this project will include determining the most critical environmental health issues for residents of Renaissance Village by reviewing data that has been collected by the Jag Mobile, developing tutorials for the trainers and those living in Renaissance Village to be administered on site at the Village, and conducting an environmental health fair. The health fair will be the culminating event of the project and will be the result of a collaborative effort between Southern University A&M College and community businesses, political leaders, churches, public service organizations, and the citizens of East Baton Rouge Parish.

University of Puerto Rico, Medical Sciences Campus – San Juan, PR

UPR-Medical Sciences Campus: Outreach Project in Environmental Health Information--2006

The goal of this project is to help to reduce environmental health disparities through information access to groups and communities of Puerto Rico. Project activities will include training students in the biology and premedical programs how to effectively use NLM resources. Graduate students admitted to the programs in pharmacy, nursing, and basic sciences (microbiology, anatomy, pharmacology and toxicology, biochemistry); faculty of the Medical Sciences Campus will also be trained. Efforts will be made to train middle and high school teachers, middle and high school students, and school librarians in using NLM's resources and other environmental databases. Plans are to design and provide conferences and workshops to the target groups. Opportunities will be made to provide training and practice in searching each of the NLM's databases that are pertinent for the target groups (i.e., PubMed®, MedlinePlus®, PubMed Central®, TOXLINE®, ChemIDplus®, Haz-Map, Household Products Database, Hazardous Substances Data Bank®, Toxics Release Inventory, LactMed, Tox Town®, and ClinicalTrials.gov). The conferences and workshops will be offered in Spanish and the handouts edited in Spanish.