Authentic Interprofessional Training

Klamath Falls serves as the anchor for OHSU’s Campus for Rural Health (CRH), which launched in 2015. OHSU’s rural presence improves population health and supports the development of a rural health care workforce in Oregon by training learners in the rural context of care and on rural health issues.

Improving Population Health through Community-Engaged Research Projects

Working under the OHSU Community Research Hub, local Community Liaisons play a dynamic role identifying viable projects within their communities and establishing partnerships with local organizations, and elucidating expectations among all stakeholders. A few examples of student projects include:

**Klamath Falls**
- Promoting Health Equity through Cultural Competency in Klamath County, partnered with the Klamath Regional Health Equity Coalition
- Healthy Corner Stores, partnered with Klamath County Food Policy Advisory Council and Oregon Tech’s Geomatics Department

**South Coast**
- Community Needs Assessment and Wellness Fair in Port Orford, partnered with Coast Community Health Center (FOHC)
- Community Needs Assessment and Resource Guide in Myrtle Point, partnered with the Myrtle Point Advisory Board
- Healthy Bytes Initiative, partnered with Coos County’s Community Health Improvement Plan, Health Eating, Active Living subcommittee

**Program Improvement**

The Campus for Rural Health utilizes both short and long-term methods to continually enhance student experience, community partnerships, and clinical faculty development.

**Students**

OHSU students submit anonymous feedback at the end of each rotation through Sakai and SurveyMonkey. Responses quickly identify strengths and weaknesses in course organization and delivery, student housing, clinical experience, and their interprofessional learning.

Upon graduation, five students have returned to practice on the South Coast. One pharmacy student is completing their residency in Klamath Falls.

**Community Partnerships**

Each Campus for Rural Health site has a well-developed community advisory board which is made up of members from the medical, business and government sectors. These boards provide a critical bridge between CRH activities and the community, and foster greater innovation.

**Clinical Faculty Development**

With local OHSU faculty and staff on-site at each Campus for Rural Health location, clinical faculty and training sites are able to receive highly responsive, local support.

Monthly surveys from clinical faculty offer immediate feedback on pre-rotation communication, impact on their clinical practice, and job satisfaction. 100% of faculty surveyed indicated an improved sense of job satisfaction when mentoring students.

**Lessons Learned**

It is difficult for some students to enter into a project mid-way and feel a sense of ownership when projects take place over several months.

- Students exiting the project now prepare a handoff document for their incoming cohort.
- Incoming students immediately engage in the project, receiving more orientation to the unique longitudinal project & rich community engaged environment.
- Students purposefully meet with community partners in person at least once every 4 weeks.
- Projects are highly valued by partners and driven by community priorities.
- An expert teaching team & dedicated Community Liaison mentor professionalism and guide project deliverables.

**Literature Cited**