

Project: Global Health Curriculum Implementation
Fellow: Amanda Herzog

Project Objective:

The objective of my project is to work with educators in the Dane county area to integrate important public health issues into their curriculum.

This project is an offshoot of the Healthy Classrooms symposium of which I was the implementation coordinator, a position I created as I wanted to provide educators with real ideas to bring back to their classroom. I want to take this idea one step further. Specifically, I am going to target educators in Dane County and I will work one-on-one with these individuals to incorporate ideas presented at the Healthy Classrooms symposium into the curriculum. Information regarding curriculum planning will be gained from contacts with the School of Education as well as the educators I will be working with. The curriculum ideas as well as other information will then be compiled and provided to other individuals attending the symposium as well as school districts throughout the area. Public health areas that will specifically be addressed are listed below:

1. Nutrition in Schools
2. Sexuality Education
3. Self-care in the Classroom
4. Global Perspectives in the Classroom
5. Insuring Wisconsin's Children
6. Minority Disparities in Education
7. Teenage Pregnancy
8. ADHD
9. Environmental Responsibility
10. Childhood Fitness
11. Obesity

Project Methods:

I will be working with the principal of Marquette School in Madison, WI and using this school as a pilot school. This principle attended the Healthy Classrooms symposium and showed great interest in implementing public health issues into the school's curriculum. I will be meeting with this principle, as well as other educators in the school, to discuss practical ways to bring public health to their

school. These meetings will occur weekly. I hope to work on one public health issue each week to eventually realize about 10 issues incorporated into the classrooms. The first two issues that we are planning on incorporating into the curriculum include yoga (self-care in the classroom) as well as having Wiley Street Co-op days replace Pizza Hut days (nutrition in schools). Some of these programs will be targeted at the entire school, while others may be better targeted at a specific classroom/age group.

The outcome of these meetings will be documented and distributed to other school districts through the Dane County area. If successful, this distribution may be broadened. These documents will include ways that the pilot school incorporated the public health issues into their classrooms, including a step-by-step approach if applicable. I also would like to survey the students of the pilot school at the beginning of next school year and at the end of one semester to see if/how these curriculum changes have influenced their daily lives and perspective. Depending on the success of the program, this pilot school could serve as the focus of a scholarly article, the publication of which could reach many schools throughout the county.

Project Intent:

Overall, the intent of this project is to heighten the awareness of educators, students and their families about pertinent global health issues. I also hope that this process of curriculum revision may help educators look at and revise their educational practices. Primarily, I hope this project instills excitement for public health in those involved. This excitement may eventually lead to an increased interest in subsequent Health Classroom symposiums or other similar programs as well as a potential to increase the pursuit of healthcare careers.

On a broader scale, I would hope that this project would reach school districts well beyond the Dane County borders. I hope that it leads to the development of similar programs. I finally hope that it helps to promote public health, as well as the importance of a well-rounded education, and leads to an increased commitment to public health issues.