

2003-2004
Quality Enhancement Program Summary
Office of Institutional Research,
Planning and Effectiveness



Department: College of Health Sciences **Award Amount:** \$14,600 **Award Recipient:** Dr. Lori Gonzalez

Project Focus:

Develop and implement interdisciplinary seminars and related activities to increase health science students' cultural competence.

Assessment Method:

Assessment will be used to gauge impact of seminars and educational activities on development of cultural awareness necessary for successful professional practice.

Results as of Fall 2004, provided by Dr. Lori Gonzalez:

A cultural climate survey was developed for administration to faculty and staff about the college. The results will provide points for conversations with both groups. Additionally, students in three of the largest programs were administered a survey of learning skills, experiences and attitudes as a pilot project. The results are being evaluated at the present time and will be administered as part of orientation for new students and for graduating students. This pre-test/post-test format will allow the College to measure value added in the area of cultural competence.

The College offered several workshops and seminars including:

- a workshop offered by the National Conference on Community and Justice geared toward training individuals to serve in the trainer role for other groups.
- two interdisciplinary seminars covering the Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Standards for Health Care.
- several members of the College served on the planning committee for the Annual AHEC Cultural Competence Workshop. This workshop, titled *Reflections on Race, Ethnicity, and Culture: Considerations for Health Professionals*, was held

in August 2004 at the Lexington Center. Student evaluation of the workshop was very positive.

Additional activities included:

- The College purchased materials for a Cultural Resource Center and plans to maintain a website that identifies activities in the college that deal with diversity.
- Currently, a faculty member, Dr. Gerry Gariola, is in the process of meeting division directors to determine how cultural issues are handled in each program.
- The annual faculty retreat focused on cultural issues with speakers covering topics dealing with health disparities and health issues with Hispanic populations.
- Alex Green, the developer of the video series, *A World Apart*, came to campus for a day to train individuals to serve as facilitators. Four individuals in the College participated in the training and can now assist faculty in all disciplines should they choose to use the videos in their courses.

Future Plans:

The most exciting outcome of this project is the interest it has generated to continue the project and attempt to do more. At a recent planning meeting for the 2005 AHEC Cultural Competence Workshop, Lori Gonzalez presented a series of ideas that would involve the six health-related colleges. There was significant support to move forward with a plan to seek extramural funding to support this broad initiative. The working group agreed to serve as the planning group for development of a grant proposal. The College will continue to participate in the AHEC Cultural Competence Workshop. Participation will be in the form of administrators and faculty support in the planning and execution of the program and of student participation in the workshop.