Health Policy
NEWSLETTER

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Jefferson Hosts *Discover Public Health Day*

April 3, 2012

In honor of National Public Health Week (April 2-8, 2012), the Jefferson School of Population Health (JSPH) collaborated with Jefferson's Career Development Center, Office of Admissions, and Jeff SAPHE (Student Activities for Public Health Education) to offer a student-driven, student-focused program designed to showcase the myriad public health initiatives in the region and provide opportunities for career networking. The idea was to reach students throughout the Delaware Valley, both undergraduate and graduate, from a variety of disciplines to expose them to a range of topics, programs, and career possibilities within the fascinating world of public health.

The afternoon began with a series of panel presentations featuring public health leaders from the Nationalities Service Center; the US Department of Health and Human Services –Region III office; Albert Schweitzer Fellowship Program; The Food Trust; Jefferson Center for Urban Health; and the Philadelphia Department of Public Health. The panelists described their organizations, highlighted current initiatives and briefly discussed their own career paths. Rob Simmons, DrPH, MPH,

Students at Public Health Speed Networking event meeting with Amna Rizvi, Health Communications Specialist, Tobacco Policy and Control, Philadelphia Department of Health.

"As a student leader and an upcoming MPH graduate, the speed networking event was a great opportunity for me to not only assist in the event planning, but also to get to do some networking myself at the event. I enjoyed learning how other MPH grads secured jobs in their public health fields of interest and the skill sets that are valued by employers."

Katie Cranston, Jeff SAPHE Vice President

"This was an eclectic event which enabled many students to network with professionals and learn about their experiences. Students participated in round-table discussions and were able to identify clerkship, capstone, and potential job opportunities."

Leonarda Parente, Jeff SAPHE President

Resources:

National Public Health Week 2012
http://www.nphw.org/

Jefferson Career Development Center
http://www.jefferson.edu/jchp/studentlife/cdc.cfm

Public Health Program, Jefferson School of Population Health
http://www.jefferson.edu/population_health/public_health/

Participating Organizations:

Albert Schweitzer Fellowship Program, Greater Philadelphia
http://www.jefferson.edu/population_health/research/schweitzer_fellows.cfm

The Food Trust
http://www.thefoodtrust.org/

Jefferson Center for Urban Health
http://www.jeffersonhospital.org/departments-and-services/center-for-urban-health.aspx

Nationalities Service Center
http://www.nationalitiesservice.org/

Philadelphia Coordinated Health Care
http://www.pchc.org/

Philadelphia Department of Public Health Get Healthy Philly
http://www.phila.gov/health/commissioner/CPPW.html

Philadelphia Global Water Initiative
http://pgwi.org/

Philadelphia Medical Reserve Corps
http://www.phila.gov/health/MedResCorps.html

Physicians for Social Responsibility
http://www.psr.org/about/

Planned Parenthood Southeastern Pennsylvania
http://www.plannedparenthood.org/ppsp/

United Nations Association of Greater Philadelphia
http://www.una-gp.org/

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Region III
http://www.hhs.gov/iea/regional/region3/index.html

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Manisha Verma, MD, MPH, Schweitzer Fellow for Life speaks to students at Discover Public Health Day.

MCHES, CPH, Director of JSPH's Public Health Program, moderated the panel and facilitated the discussion. This was a unique opportunity for the student audience to see the diversity of programs that exist within the public health arena.

The second part of the afternoon, "Public Health Speed Networking" was hosted by Leonarda Parente and Katie Cranston of Jeff SAPHE. Organized in a similar fashion to 'speed dating,' this was a fun and innovative way for students to interact directly with representatives from public health organizations. Students were provided descriptions of organizations and selected three organizations each for networking. They were given approximately 15 minutes with each representative where they could ask questions related to programs and career paths. In addition to the organizations represented during the panel, other participating programs and organizations included: Philadelphia Global Water Initiative; Philadelphia Coordinated Care; Philadelphia Medical Reserve Corps; Physicians for Social Responsibility; Planned Parenthood Southeast PA; and the United Nations Association of the United States of America, Greater Philadelphia Chapter. Not only was this an invaluable experience for the students, but the representatives felt engaged in the process and honored to participate. ■