Jefferson Hosts Fourth Interprofessional Care Conference
October 12, 2014

The Jefferson Center for Interprofessional Education (JCIPE) will host its fourth biennial conference on interprofessional care this fall. The conference will run from Friday, October 10th through Sunday, October 12th. Entitled “Interprofessional Care for the 21st Century: Redefining Education and Practice,” its purpose is to bring individuals involved in interprofessional education and care together to share ideas, innovative programs and the latest research to help advance interprofessional approaches to education and care (IPE/C) across the country. It will also highlight the leadership that Jefferson has exhibited in this arena since the inception of JCIPE in 2007.

The planning committee has set four objectives for the conference for which papers will be invited. These topics reflect issues that many of the leaders in the field believe are necessary to move the IPE/C agenda forward. These are:

- Apply a theoretical framework to interprofessional education initiatives
- Design creative interprofessional education teaching strategies including dynamic academic/clinical partnerships
- Integrate innovative collaborative practice models in their clinical settings, and
- Assess individual education and/or clinical practices in light of the information and discussion during the conference and identify specific strategies to implement as part of a continuing improvement process for practice.

The first JCIPE conference was planned as a local sharing of information about Jefferson’s interprofessional program with local health professionals. However, the conference has grown in scope and size over the years and has now attracted national, even international participation. Approximately 325 individuals attended the last conference in 2012. Attendees came from across the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom and Australia. In addition, the 2010 conference provided a forum for the newly organized American Interprofessional Health Collaborative to hold a major planning and organizational meeting.

The interest in this conference and other, similar, ones reflects the growth of the interprofessional education and care movement, not only in North America, but worldwide. Interprofessional approaches to education have grown from small programs in a few schools to larger programs designed to incorporate interprofessional education as an integral part of the preparation of health professionals rather than an adjunct to it. As evidence of this interest, the Health Resources and Services Administration in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has awarded a $4 million, five year collaborative agreement to the University of Minnesota to establish a National Center for Interprofessional Practice and Education. That effort is also being supported by contributions $8.6 million from four major foundations; Josiah Macy Jr, Robert Wood Johnson, John A. Hartford, and Gordon & Betty Moore. This represents a growing culture of collaboration within health care and the attendance at this conference recognizes Jefferson as one of the leaders in the movement.

Once again, major national and international leaders have agreed to come and present keynote speeches including: George E. Thibault, MD of the Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation; Barbara Brandt, PhD, Director, National Center for Interprofessional Practice and Education; John Gilbert, BSR (PT),MEd, PhD, former co-chair for the WHO Study Group on Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Practice and former Project Lead of the Canadian Interprofessional Health Collaborative; and Malcolm Cox, MD, former Chief Academic Affiliations Officer, Veterans Health Administration.

Four types of papers reflecting one of the key objectives are invited; papers on research in progress, papers on completed research, seminars and posters. Abstract submission opened on April 28th. For more information visit: http://www.jefferson.edu/university/interprofessional_education.html

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