

# July 10, 2008 DHP Summer Seminar The Jefferson School of Health Policy and Population Health

Every year the Department of Health Policy hosts its Summer Seminar, a “capstone” event and informational forum devoted to a topic of particular interest to the department’s Senior Scholars, supporters and constituents, and the Jefferson community at-large.

This topic of this year’s Seminar, held in the Foerderer Auditorium, was the Proposed Jefferson School of Health Policy and Population Health (note: on July 28, 2008, the School was formally approved by the Thomas Jefferson University Board of Trustees). The keynote address, “Bridging the Gap: Master’s Level Education in Healthcare Quality and Safety,” was delivered by Donna Woods, EdM, PhD, Co-Director of the Master’s Program in Healthcare Quality and Patient Safety at Northwestern University’s Feinberg School of Medicine (<http://www.medschool.northwestern.edu/ihs/education/master/index.html>).

Dr. Woods shared her experience and insights as an architect of Northwestern’s Master’s program—the only one of its kind nationally—“so that we may learn from Northwestern’s experience...a blueprint for our future efforts,” said David B. Nash, MD, MBA, referring to the imminent launch of the Jefferson School of Health Policy and Population Health (JSHPH). Set to open its doors in September 2009, JSHPH will be the second program in the nation to offer a graduate degree in Healthcare Quality and Safety.

Questions addressed at the Seminar include:

- What should be the program’s patient safety and quality educational competencies?
- What course content should be included in the core curriculum?
- In what format(s) (eg, online vs. in-classroom) should courses be taught?

Dr. Woods advised Jefferson to be sure to fully integrate the program into the university system, cultivate leaders, and do everything possible to “hit the ground running.” Program evaluation may prove particularly challenging, Woods added, because this program represents a new genre and is breaking new ground.

The agenda also included the following breakout sessions, moderated by DHP and Jefferson faculty:

- Population Health: What's it all about?
- Establishing a Research Agenda
- Executive and Continuing Professional Education
- Building Community and Strategic Partnerships
- Academic Programming: Certificate and Degree Programs
- Opportunities for Local, Regional, and National Impact

After the breakouts, group moderators reconvened in a panel and presented their take-home messages to the audience, which Dr. Nash summarized in his concluding remarks. The program concluded with lunch in the Hamilton Building Lobby. A podcast of the panel discussion is available online at [http:// departmentofhealthpolicy.blogspot.com](http://departmentofhealthpolicy.blogspot.com).

For more information about the Jefferson School of Health Policy and Population Health, visit the website at <http://www.jefferson.edu/JSHPPH>.