

Grant Recipient Name: Elizabeth Schulman and Karen Skaff  
Grant period: April – December 2008  
Report date: June 15, 2009

University of Kentucky, College Of Health Sciences' Health Professions Initiative

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### Specific Aims of the Project

1. Increase health career opportunities for high performing high school students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds
2. Increase enrollment by targeting high performing high school students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds into UK's health professions programs.
3. Increase the number of UK baccalaureate degree graduates
4. Help address the needs of Kentucky's health care workforce shortage areas by educating high performing, rural Kentuckians in Kentucky
5. To promote good public relations and good-will between UK and communities in Perry County

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### Progress on Project Objectives

When applying for the grant, some preliminary activities had already been completed (as noted in the original proposal). The following progress was made regarding objectives # 6-8.

#### Activities To Be Completed By June 2008

6. On 2-13-08, Dr. Stewart, Ms. Baird, and I will meet with Mr. Witt, Director, **UK Registrar's Office**, to discuss enrollment, registration, granting college credit, and tuition-waivers for participating high school students.
  - **Progress toward meeting objective:** This meeting was held as scheduled and the logistics of operationalizing this proposal were discussed. Michelle Nordin, Student Services Director, indicated that the Office of the Registrar would be able to facilitate these processes and indicated that a simplified, non-degree application for high school students with exceptional ability is now available. Mr. Witt also said that the UK application fee could be waived for this program.
7. In February or March, a meeting will be scheduled to speak with **Perry Council School** Administrators and involved teacher(s) to present and discuss the feasibility and desirability of this proposal. Others attending this meeting will include Dr. Stewart, Ms. Baird, Ms. Carroll, Dr. Casey, and/or Ms. Bates, and me.
  - **Progress toward meeting objective: This meeting was held on** Friday, March 28, 2008, a meeting to discuss the implementation of this initiative in fall 2008 at Perry County Central High School was convened in Hazard, Kentucky.  
Those in attendance were:
    1. Abbie Combs, Assistant Superintendent, Perry County Schools
    2. Estill Neace, Principal, Perry County Central High School
    3. Jennifer Carroll, Branch Manager, Division of Secondary and Virtual Learning, KY Dept of Education
    4. Pam Bates, MSW - Student Affairs Coordinator, UK Center for Rural Health

5. Jackie Briscoe - Distance Learning Program Coordinator I, UK Teaching and Academic Center
6. Sharon Stewart, EdD - Assoc Dean for Academic Affairs, UK CHS
7. Karen Skaff, PhD - Course Instructor and Chair, Dept of Clinical Sciences, UK CHS
8. Elizabeth D Schulman, PhD - Principal Investigator, Associate Professor, UK CHS

All in attendance agreed that the meeting was extremely productive and all look forward to participating in the organization and implementation of the initiative in fall 2008. Specifically: All those present at the meeting agreed that this initiative had value and that we would all work together to make it happen. In addition, Ms. Combs and Mr. Neace successfully lobbied for the inclusion of Buckhorn High School, assuring the others present that Mr. Harvey Colwell, Principal of Buckhorn High School, would be very interested in participating. It was projected that approximately 3-5 students from Buckhorn would participate. The group agreed that with support equivalent to what Perry County would receive from Ms. Carroll's Division of Secondary and Virtual Learning, KY Department of Education, this would be acceptable.

**Formal approval from Perry County Board of Education** - Ms. Combs will assume that responsibility.

**Dual Credit Option** - The mechanism is in place, and students currently receive dual credit when they take courses offered by Hazard Community and Technical College.

8. A follow-up meeting (or two) in March and/or April at Perry County will involve the review and agreement of specific proposal components, such as student eligibility, dual-credit option, the logistics of UK enrollment and class registration, review of the HSE 101 course syllabus and course requirements, time schedules, and distance learning teaching techniques and technical assistance.

***Progress toward meeting objective:** Most of the information mentioned above was discussed at the initial meeting on March 28, 2008. However, subsequent to that meeting, there has been a regular exchange of emails to facilitate further planning, clarify concerns, and respond to questions.*

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## **Progress on Outcomes**

### **Outcomes (by June 2008)**

1. All necessary educational partners involved in this initiative will have made a definite commitment to support and work collaboratively to implement this proposal in fall 2008.

**Outcome:** completed in June 2008

2. The high school student enrollment process for HSE 101 will be completed.

**Outcome:** The finalization of students who would be enrolled and the registration process was completed in August 2008

3. Distance learning site instructors and technicians will be familiar with the course delivery logistics and the academic expectations of participating students.

**Outcome:** UK technicians are trained and well prepared to deliver distance-learning programs. In August 2008, I traveled to Perry County High School and Buckhorn High to

orient the learning site instructors and technicians about this program, its schedule, and its distance-learning format. I also met the students to conduct an orientation and discuss the overall purpose of the initiative.

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### **Project Summary**

The overall goal of this proposal is to encourage and facilitate the recruitment of high performing senior high school students from economically disadvantaged areas to the University of Kentucky's health professions programs by offering, tuition-free, HSE 101: Introduction to the Health Sciences, a one-credit college course, via interactive video during their school day. This course is a speaker-survey course and each week a different health care professional presents discipline-specific information, including professional role and responsibilities, employment opportunities, and educational requirements. (Currently, this course is scheduled during the fall semester on Thursdays, from 2-2:50 pm). In order to determine the effectiveness and desirability of this initiative on a state-wide basis, I would like to propose the implementation of a pilot study in the fall of 2008 that connects the presentation of HSE 101 via interactive video to interested and high performing senior students at Perry County Central High School, Hazard, Kentucky.

This initiative involves the support, collaboration, and active participation of the following educational partners:

- University of Kentucky, College of Health Sciences (CHS)
- University of Kentucky, Teaching and Academic Support Center (TASC), Division of Distance Learning
- University of Kentucky, Center for Rural Health
- Kentucky Department of Education, Division of Secondary and Virtual Learning
- Perry County Board of Education and Perry County Central High School

### **Implementation: Fall 2008**

Dr. Karen Skaff was the course director. She developed the syllabus and invited various health professionals to make discipline-specific presentations during the weekly class meetings (Fridays from 1-2 pm). Seventeen students from Perry Central HS and five students from Buckhorn HS completed the course. (UK students in Lexington were also enrolled.)

There were some technical, weather-related, and scheduling difficulties which presented challenges to the implementation of the initiative. However, mid-semester and after the semester ended, I made two site visits and received feedback from the on-site instructors and the students regarding the course. Overall, the students were pleased to have had the opportunity to take a college course during their senior year (and earn a college credit) and they enjoyed learning about various health professionals. Most said they would recommend this class to upcoming seniors if it were offered again.