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Denali Training Fund Quarterly Progress Report

Funds for this project are provided by the USDOL and the Denali Commission and managed, in partnership, by the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

Name of Organization: UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA
Name of Project: RURAL ALLIED HEALTH TRAINING – OTHER ACTIVITIES
Reporting Period: January – March 2008 Phase IIIB, 3rd Qtr and FINAL
Contact Person: Mia Oxley
Contact Number: 907 786 4853 Email Address: oxley@uaa.alaska.edu
Expenditures to date: Provided by UA Office of Cost Analysis
Certification: I certify that the information in this report is current, correct and true and in accordance with the terms and conditions of the agreement.
Signed by: <u><i>Jan Harris</i></u> Dated <u><i>4/15/08</i></u>
Title: <u><i>Associate Dean, CHSW/Project PI</i></u>

1. In a few sentences, please describe the scope of your project:

While the other reports in this packet cover one project each, this report covers three sets of grant activities that do not have accompanying student outcome data: HEALTH SCIENCES, UAS HEALTH SCIENCE PROJECT ASSISTANCE, and PROJECT FACILITATION.

HEALTH SCIENCES – This initiative is to develop advanced tracks for allied health workers who already hold licensure or certification in a discipline. Once developed, the academic tracks will prepare trainees to assume higher level / including supervisory positions in their health organizations. Without this training, rural residents will continue to miss out on opportunities for advancement in their health organizations.

UAS HEALTH SCIENCE PROJECT ASSISTANCE. This project assistance is for UAS health programs in three areas: 1) faculty support, including ordering supplies and textbooks, maintaining student files, filing state required paperwork, providing course management support and maintaining affiliate agreements. 2) providing information to prospective trainees at likely facilities and special events, and 3) student support by providing initial response to student inquiries and maintaining a data base of student course completions that facilitates faculty follow up with students.

PROJECT FACILITATION. This area of the grant provides for overall coordination of the various of initiatives of the Allied Health Training Grant and includes facilitating meetings of work groups and forums, supporting project development, troubleshooting coordination across departments, colleges and MAU's and reporting.

2. Project Activities for this Reporting Period:

Describe the grant activities that happened during this report period. Include planning, advertisement and/or training performance that occurred this quarter? List any accomplishments achieved. (Attach advertisements if applicable)

HEALTH SCIENCES

Work on the Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences this quarter included preparations for the curriculum process. Because of changes to the existing degree, it was important to determine if it requires approval from the Board of Regents. After some exploration and further definition of the additional tracks to be created, it appears this will be required. The key faculty in the Department of Health Sciences and the Allied Health Director continued to meet and finalize tasks/timelines for the College of Health and Social Welfare Curriculum Committee review, followed by the University Academic Board, the Faculty Senate, UAA Office of Academic Affairs and finally the Board of Regents. This last step adds a few additional months to the process. It was determined to begin the curriculum review process first thing in September, rather than the final meeting of the CHSW committee in later April.

UAS HEALTH SCIENCE PROJECT ASSISTANCE

- Four regular faculty members and four adjuncts were supported in this period
- Five affiliate agreements updated in this period, 4 updated and pending signatures (most of these agreements run 2-3 years, 12 updated in the 2nd quarter).
- 65 student files created or updated this period. This is ongoing throughout the term, approximately 50 more in progress.
- Points of distribution for program information:
 1. World of Work (WOW) job fair- 2 day job fair held in Sitka. Contacts made:
 - 800 high school students
 - Sent back to UAA, PWSCC, UAF advisors-100 brochures each school
 - Association of Village Council Presidents-90 brochures
 2. Mount Edgecumbe High School Health Fair-one day event-400 students
 3. Worked with marketing committee on advertising, Health Science slides prepared for GCI scanners statewide and UATV state wide.
Other contacts informational brochures were sent to:
 4. Wrangell Job Fair-110 high school students
 5. Sitka Tribe of Alaska-340 brochures for distribution
 6. OMH grant at AK Native Medical Center Epicenter 550 brochures, 80 DVD's about program
 7. Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Hospital-350 brochures for distribution
 8. Providence-Anchorage to take to Anchorage Health Fair-500 brochures
- There were 52 new inquiries about programs during this period. Also follow up on CWA inquiries (18) from 1st and 2nd quarters 2007-2008 to determine interest in a new CWA cohort for Fall term 2008.

PROJECT FACILITATION

- Interviewed past members of the PCA/CNA work group. Reconstituted the work group and convened in a meeting March 21 for the purpose of statewide coordination and systematic implementation of the distance delivered CNA program.
- Coordinated with liaisons from each MAU on a weekly and sometimes daily basis related to their various projects and efforts to create systems for coordinating, tracking and reporting.
- Facilitated transitions in the administration of Denali grant from the DOL to Denali Commission staff as well as from UA Statewide to UAA as the statewide lead. The transition process entailed detailed and repeated communication with fiscal and program administration personnel at UA Statewide, at UAA (Community & Technical College, College of Health and Social Welfare, Office of Sponsored Programs, Grants and Contracts), at UAF (College of Rural & Community Development and Tanana Valley Campus), and at UAS (Sitka Campus and Juneau Campus).

3. Scheduled Project Activities/Important Dates for next quarter:

Describe your planned activities and training for next few months. Please include important dates like graduation, site visits, travel, job fairs, etc.

HEALTH SCIENCES

Continue preparation of the tracks for the step by step curriculum process.

UAS HEALTH SCIENCE PROJECT ASSISTANCE

Continue support activities as described above.

PROJECT FACILITATION

- Convene PCA/CNA Work Group on May 6. Preparation includes compiling vacancy data for their consideration and identifying, inviting, and briefing other stakeholders to join discussion.
- Convene HIM/HCR Work Group May 9. This gathering of UA faculty is the first in over a year and will revisit coordination progress and other issues.
- Report to Allied Health Alliance on progress of work groups and other Denali funded projects.
- Coordination with Allied Health Program Liaisons will continue and include challenges of transitions from Phase IIIB funding to Phase IV funding caused by delays in agreements at Denali Commission level and UA level.
- Retention. Identify priority activities to support retention of Allied Health workers in rural Alaska.

4. a. How many are in your training program during this reporting period?
b. How many people have been trained and/or certified to date from this grant?

5. Please list complete the list by putting the community to which each individual trained is from, the type of training and certification, the graduation date and who will employ them upon completion of training.

These activities are supportive of the academic programs through planning or assistance. The student participation numbers are provided in the reports of each training program.

6. Please identify any problems or changes in your training project that will affect the budget, scope or timeline of the project. Is your training on schedule? What are the reasons for any difficulties or delays? Are you over budget/under budget? Have you had to change the initial scope? Please provide an explanation to this change and your resolution to the variance.

None at this time.

7. How are you or will you be evaluating the individuals being trained to ensure competency, skill level and understanding? (Testing, assessment, etc)

N/A

8. Please identify areas that we can assist you in the future.

The timing of grant applications and grant awards are of critical importance to the ongoing effectiveness of these Denali funded projects. Though understandable given the transitions at the Denali Commission, the uncertainties and then delays in the Phase IV award sent ripples of challenges throughout the programs, colleges, MAU's and at the statewide office of UA.

The Denali Commission could assist most by announcing and adhering to a timeline for application/review/award notification /access to funds. These Allied Health programs would then benefit from a timely process that assures Phase V funding in place by July 1.