



Introducing Us

Located in the Health Sciences building on the David Lam Campus, the Centre began operation in 2008. The Centre serves as a hub for linking students, faculty and the community in interdisciplinary service-learning, community-based research and health promotion projects. This year the Centre has 10 projects underway and has received 6 grants totaling \$75,000.

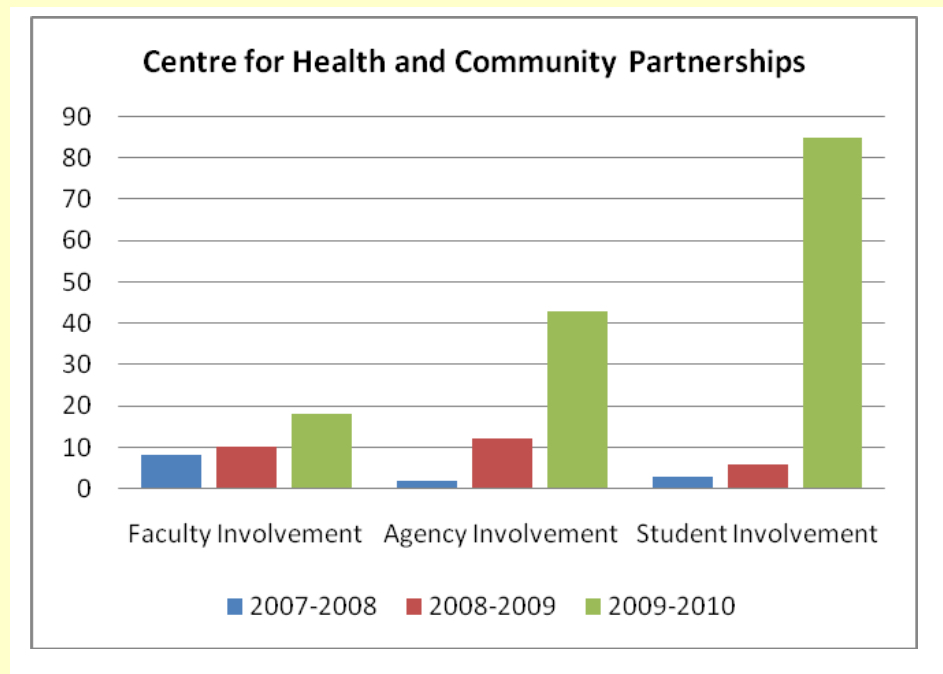
The goal of the Centre is to develop partnerships that promote healthy communities. Originally established to serve the Faculties of Health Sciences, Child Family and Community Studies and the Sport Sciences Program, the Centre is expanding its reach to the entire College community over the next year. Currently five of seven Faculties are directly involved in projects.

Activities on and off campus have grown as the Centre becomes known within the College and the community.

Inside this Issue

1. Introducing Us
2. Seniors Health Event
Homelessness in the Tri-Cities
3. Intercultural Workplaces
Health Literacy
4. More CHCP Projects!
Let's Work Together!

Promoting healthy communities through partnerships in service-learning, community-based research and health promotion activities



Seniors Health Event

By Lori Kittelberg

A Seniors' Day held at the Centre on February 4 provided an interdisciplinary opportunity for 76 students from the Home Support, Therapeutic Recreation and Dispensing Optician programs to work with 38 local seniors. The seniors came to the David Lam campus to cook, discuss nutrition and home safety, learn simple exercises, have their vision checked and get minor eyeglasses adjustments in sessions led by the students.

"It was a great chance to open our doors to the community, create an opportunity for our students to be leaders and partners and to show the community we want to reach out to them," ~ TR Program Coordinator Geri Paterson.

Students had some stereotypes shattered by the experience: "The people I met today are not what a lot of us picture when we think of seniors. They're starting a whole new chapter in their lives - they're not letting age get in their way of enjoying life," said Huda Nooh, a Health Care Support Worker (HCSW) student at Douglas College. "They're really active and outgoing," she added as she made soup and sandwiches in a Health Sciences home lab, while three seniors taught Therapeutic Recreation (TR) students dance steps.

Del Holbrook of Coquitlam, who participated along with his wife Angela, said the event helped to "bridge the generation gap." "It allows older people to understand what young people are learning and gets us to stay young. It was fun and very interactive," said Holbrook after taking a vision test.

For students, it was also a good opportunity to get hands-on experience in the classroom. "It's good to apply the theory we've learned in textbooks. For example, we've seen people with cataracts and were able to show them how it starts," said DOPT student Parvaneh Ghanbari.

"It was a great chance to open our doors to the community, create an opportunity for our students to be leaders and partners and to show the community we want to reach out to them," says TR Program Coordinator Geri Paterson.



Homelessness in the Tri-Cities

The Centre is involved with the Tri-Cities Homelessness Task Force and a number of agencies who are addressing this multi-faceted issue. We are exploring the feasibility of engaging in a community-based research project on the topic of homelessness in suburbia. There is potential involvement with the Tri-Cities Homes for Good Society and a range of other groups in this project.

Douglas College faculty who are involved with the topic of homelessness through their research or teaching are invited to attend a meeting on March 31st (Room 1616, NW Campus) if they are interested in participating in this project. Please rsvp at chcp@douglas.bc.ca

Intercultural Workplaces

The Centre is involved with the Faculty of Child, Family and Community Studies, Department of English as a Second Language and 12 Tri-Cities community agencies in a Ministry funded project on Welcoming and Inclusive Workplaces. This \$330,000 project, led by S.U.C.C.E.S.S, runs from November 2009 through February 2011 and will involve an on-campus education component and a workplace component taught by College faculty.

Internationally-trained human service workers will gain Canadian workplace experience while the agencies will develop a range of intercultural strategies to integrate internationally-prepared workers into the workplace. This is a demonstration project that will result in changed workplace practices. The Centre will be responsible for the substantial evaluation component of the project.

There are opportunities for faculty and students to be involved in the evaluation component. Involvement will include opportunities to develop research, data collection and data analysis skills. Please contact chcp@douglas.bc.ca if you are interested in participating.



Health Literacy Anyone?

We are working with representatives from government, NGOs and business to develop and implement a Health Literacy Strategy for British Columbia. Last year (March 2009) we organized a Round Table with 34 participants from different sectors and started a Health Literacy website (<http://www.douglas.bc.ca/visitors/health-community-partnership-centre/health-promotion/health-literacy.html>). We have also been involved in demonstration projects, with students from Health Sciences.

The focus of the work is on the ability of the population to access, understand and evaluate health information but we are also looking at developing capacity for practitioners, preparing students and improving the system. We are now planning a second Round Table for late April or early May 2010.

We invite Douglas College faculty who are interested to become involved with this initiative. If you have an interest in the topic area of health and literacy, please contact the Centre at chcp@douglas.bc.ca.

More CHCP Projects!

We are involved in more interdisciplinary, collaborative projects and developing new relationships. Look for more information in the next Newsletter about other projects such as:

Crossroads Hospice Society

Faculty and students from the Health Care Support Worker and Health Information Management programs are working on a project with the Crossroads Hospice Society to better understand how the general public uses the new Labyrinth Healing Garden located just across from the Port Moody City Hall.

Multicultural Input Into Alzheimer's Screening Tool

We are working with Dr. Claudia Jacova and Dr. Sarah Le Huray (UBC) an on-line screening tool for Alzheimer's Disease for various ethnic groups. Kimberley Bontinen and Patricia Juvic, Health Sciences faculty members, are planning and facilitating focus groups with health professionals who work with members from different cultural groups to provide feedback regarding the design and use of the screening tool.

Let's Work Together!

*Provide your students with a transformative learning experience!
Enrich your research experience and promote healthy communities!
Work with College faculty and students to meet your agency's goals!*

Contact us to talk about a project and become involved in the Centre.

We can help you define the project's goals, support you with grant application processes, work with Finance to manage grant funds, match faculty and students to agency projects, and oversee projects, assisting as required. We offer consultation and logistical support.

See our website at www.douglascollege.ca/chcp and contact us at chcp@douglas.bc.ca



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