



Healthy Aging Fair: An Interprofessional Community Outreach Collaboration

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INTRODUCTION

- According to the WHO "Interprofessional education occurs when students from two or more professions learn about, from, and with each other to enable effective collaboration and improve health outcomes" (www.ipecollaborative.org)
- IPE initiatives are an approach to teach health professional students how to provide care as part of a collaborative healthcare team
- IPE Collaborative (IPEC) competencies include (1) roles and responsibilities, (2) teams and teamwork, (3) communication, (4) values and ethics (www.ipecollaborative.org)
- A current focus of American healthcare is health and wellness, and prevention for all populations (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2014)
- West Virginians are among the lowest for healthy outcomes in the United States (United Health Foundation, 2016)
- In research, students have expressed that experiences that are "real world" are more valuable than simulation or didactic instruction (Rosenfield, Oandasan, & Reeves, 2011)
- WVU has expanded the reach of interprofessional education outside of the health sciences center to include other disciplines to provide optimal patient care

OBJECTIVES

- (1) To describe an innovative interprofessional education community outreach initiative
- (2) To assess student attitudes toward interprofessional education through course evaluation



METHODS

- Audiology, Music Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Pharmacy, Physical Therapy, and Speech & Language Pathology faculty and students participated in the health fair planning and development
- Three 4- hour long health fairs were offered at three rural communities in Marion, Monongalia, and Preston counties
- Student teams developed and implemented 12 interactive stations with at least 3 disciplines at each station
- A 360° degree assessment was completed
 - Student course evaluation and reflections
 - Participant exit survey
 - Faculty debriefing sessions
- Stations:

Aging in Place	Cognition	Diabetes
Fall Prevention	Health Literacy	Heart Health
Immunizations	Mobility	Oral Health
Osteoporosis	Vestibular Health	Vital Signs

RESULTS

360° degree assessment

- STUDENTS**
 - Thirty-one student pharmacists participated in the health fairs and completed an end of course evaluation that included questions from the IPEC Competency Survey
 - Pharmacy student reflections revealed positive learning outcomes that met project objectives
- PARTICIPANTS**
 - According to exit survey results, the health fair was rated excellent by 86.4% of the community participants
- FACULTY**
 - Faculty debriefed after each health fair and held one formal debriefing session at the conclusion of the project

RESULTS

IPEC Competency Survey Results

IPEC Question Domain	Strongly Agree (%)	Agree (%)
Roles and responsibilities (3 questions)	54.84, 77.42, 70.97	41.94*, 22.58, 25.81**
Interprofessional communications (4 questions)	67.74, 67.74, 70.97, 70.97	32.26, 32.26, 29.03, 29.03

Pharmacy student reflections

"I really liked the aspect of working with other professions. I think we learned a lot of what other professions do and how we can work with the professions to care for the community."

"My favorite aspect of the IPE Health Fair was being able to personally interact with the people out in the community in addition to working alongside the other professions because each profession evaluated the patient's needs from a different angle."

IMPLICATIONS

- Student teams working in collaboration are able to positively impact the community while learning valuable interprofessional skills including roles and responsibilities and communication
- Students and faculty are challenged to be innovative in project design and implementation as well as flexible in meeting the various needs of the community
- Community settings offer a dynamic learning environment and possibility for unique interprofessional partnerships
- Based on debriefing sessions after each health fair faculty were able to make improvements for subsequent health fairs
- Participants and students alike commented that more advertising was needed and faculty discussed ways to improve attendance at future health fairs through better advertising

