Fostering Cultural Humility in Medical Education Through Service Learning

Nicole Runkle, Mahir Mameledzija MBA, David Nelson PhD, MS

INTRODUCTION

Students want to learn more about different cultures. Students wish this was built into our curriculum. The best way to learn is via in-person interaction.

Idea: community → students → discuss & reflect

KERN INSTITUTE TRIPLE AIM

Humility (Competence)

Caring

Character

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Initial Value statement: MCW students will allocate time to increase their knowledge of health disparities and discussing these disparities with patients and families for a smoother transition into clinical years and residency practice.

students → community → discuss & reflect

Final Description of Project

Orientation (Jan)

Serve at site *

Discuss & Reflect

Serve at site *

Discuss, Reflect, Feedback (April)

Final Survey (n=22): average 4.45

On a scale of 0-5, how would you rate your desire to improve your cultural humility?

0 - no desire; 5 - very desired

Final Reflections:

“Being able to be with people in a time of need and yet see them as strong human beings even though they were vulnerable.”

“It brought me back a little bit to where I came from and becoming re-acquainted with the struggle of not having the money or resources to fill every need. Honestly, I am more appreciative of the road I am on as well.”

“Many of the people there didn't want to be there; they didn't want to be in a vulnerable position. For me, it was necessary to find the middle ground to make them feel secure enough to share. As a future physician, it is absolutely pertinent to ensure that my patients feel secure and safe enough to talk to me about what is truly bothering them.”

DISCUSSION

• Feedback from multiple stakeholders is vital in project development.

• Students value taking time to reflect on experiences and vulnerability.

• Community experiences shape perspectives in the clinic/hospital room.

• Students want an integrated cultural humility component of our curriculum.

RESULTS

ENTREPRENEURIAL MINDSET

Curiosity

• Do students want something like this within the curriculum?

• Is the school interested in adding something like this to the curriculum?

• Is this type of project feasible within our curriculum?

Connections and Collaboration

• Collaborators: Friedens Community Ministries, StreetLife Communities, students, & faculty.

• Connect students to community experiences; Connect community members to students.

• Connect experiences to clinical practice.

Create Value

• Increasing the value of the medical school experience.

• Adding value to “volunteering.”

• Bidirectional learning.

• For the community, bringing in human resources to help with the operations, relationships between the medical community and the community.

“Continue It!”

• “Discussion sessions were great to provide dedicated time to think through the experience as well as hear other students thought processes and takeaways … We were able to relate our experiences back to medicine and discuss current issue”