The Importance of Global Health
Integrating Possibilities of Research into the Curriculum and Community

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A Basic Problem: Healthcare as a Curricular Approach

- **Access** to Primary Care is a necessary component to **Quality** of Primary Care.
- Fear is a major factor in health-related decision-making for underrepresented minorities.
- Fear leads to lack of healthcare access, whether perceived or real.
- Regardless of one’s views on immigration, class, and race, failure to serve this population places increased burdens (i.e., costs) on:
  - Community Health
  - Individuals contributing $ to Managed Healthcare
  - Medical Care Facilities
  - Employers
  - Social Services Agencies
- There exist fewer and fewer geographic regions immune to poverty.
Recognizing Changes in Curriculum

- We assess learning when:
  - Have a clear understanding of learning goals/outcomes
  - Relate these understandings to students
  - Construct learning activities that yield rich assessment data
  - Incorporate assessment information into descriptive feedback to increase students’ understanding of the learning experience
  - Adjust teaching, goals, objectives, approaches based on findings from ongoing research
  - Teach students to assess themselves to initiate some metacognitive processes
  - Develop students’ ability to articulate their current level of knowing
Human Capital: Seeking Real Solutions in Global Health

- Assess the capital (knowledge, skills, attitudes) of your faculty members more explicitly to incorporate Global Health into the professions, staff, and students.

- Assess whether your curriculum system is aligned with your mission when dealing with interdisciplinary projects.

- Modify the Teaching-Research-Service expectations to include skills needed among faculty to include projects, curriculum, and initiatives that can emerge from real-life problems (wellness).
The community is part of the process of change

And part of what changes

- New structures, norms, relationships that strengthen the community’s problem adaptation and/or solving capacity

- For sustainability, this form of community change can build on the strengths of local people (people in the field), recognizing that such people are already engaged in the development and maintenance of the community

- Strategies include community organization and advocacy, based on social learning and community capacity theories.
Research Goals of Initiative

- Investigate the efficacy of models for training students about the health & culture of minorities:
  - University with Applied Social Research
  - Health Issues Emerging from Community
  - Policy Driven Public Health
Curricular Implementation of Research and Curriculum

- Health Sustainability of our region and communities are worked on by a group of stakeholders (university and community) who will work to establish research that will have application for curriculum and regional change, especially in our professional students (teachers, social workers, health leaders, etc.).

- Work with research projects on issues in their education, practice and professional endeavours; occurring through individual projects, internships, and theses.

- Work with students on research on specific issues with interdisciplinary approaches—such as nutrition, wellness, and primary health of neighbourhoods, included in students’ professional service, internship, or senior projects.
Potential Research Designs

- SVSU is a regional institution and our mission is to be a regional steward. Therefore, potential research designs should mimic the health related issues important to our region.

- It is important to create research designs that can be implemented by undergraduate students and serve the community. We primarily utilize cohort studies which target high-risk groups. These designs include an educational component which encourages health and well-being.

- These designs have led to is the idea of creating a “Center” with the purposes of:
  - establishing partnerships with local entities and,
  - disseminating information throughout the community and region.
Potential Benefits

- The UNIVERSITY benefits by increased exposure via regional media coverage which in turn impacts enrollment and retention.

- The STUDENT benefits from service/research projects by gaining practical experience which expands on content learned in the classroom. This experience directly impacts employment and graduate school opportunities.

- The COMMUNITY benefits from these projects by increasing awareness regarding the importance of physical activity, health, and well-being. The community also benefits from the regional media coverage.