Site Visit Success!

Our annual site visit took place on November 10th at the Black Wolf Lodge in Wisconsin Dells. Representatives from the 4 distance programs, other WisTREC partners and staff members were on hand to meet with Sally Tom and Jean Johnson-Pawlson from the Partnerships for Training office. The site visit focused on the 6 goals set at the beginning of the year and the successes and challenges in meeting them. After being briefed on the current position of WisTREC in relation to these goals, Sally and Jean said they were impressed by the progress that had been made. The visit was wrapped up with a discussion of the project’s strengths, weaknesses and how to proceed in the upcoming year. The main thrust still needs to be in developing distance courses for complete degree programs, but we’re getting close enough that we can begin recruiting students and developing community partnerships. We also need to start thinking of how we’re going to sustain our efforts past the RWJ grant.

FIPSE Grant Submitted

After speaking with a representative from FIPSE (The Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education), Jeannette McDonald determined that their comprehensive grant opportunity was more suitable for continuing WisTREC’s work than the LAAP grant applied for last year. For the last month she has been busy working with WisTREC partners and the FIPSE office to develop a pre-proposal which was just submitted on February 11th. The reviews from the LAAP grant indicated that the preproposal would be more competitive if it were focused on one discipline. After much deliberation and discussion, it was decided that the strongest proposal would be for developing nurse practitioner degrees at the Schools of Nursing at UW Eau Claire & Madison. If awarded, the grant monies will help Eau Claire develop its Nurse Practitioner program for flexible learning. It will also help UW Madison develop a pediatric distance option which is unique in the state and would provide Eau Claire students with pediatric electives. Final proposals will be due May 9, awards granted sometime late summer, with funds available starting October 1. Keep your fingers crossed!

From the PI’s Pen

Welcome to the 21st century! If each year is a new canvas full of possibilities, how much bigger is the canvas, and more possibilities, for a new millennium? I find it very exciting and invigorating. We are making history and setting a course for the future by exploring new educational methods that can expand formal learning to every person, anytime, anyplace. We truly can create a “learning” nation. I love being part of the solution.

New years, new millenniums, and annual site visits all give us pause to think of where we’ve been and where we’re going. As I go about the daily business of “running” WisTREC it is easy to feel that things are moving slowly and sometimes it feels like we’re going backwards instead of forwards. The annual site visit in November gave me the opportunity to remember where we were a year ago and the changes that have occurred since then. I think the biggest change that I see is one of attitude. I feel I’m surrounded by people that are committed to making their degree programs available to students no matter where they live. The questions have changed within the last year. Instead of, “Should we? Can we? Will we?” I am now hearing, “How can we? When can we? Why can’t we?” It makes for a much more positive working environment and, frankly, makes my job a lot of fun. Thank you all for your openness and pioneering attitudes. It’s not easy to push the envelope. I was very proud of WisTREC at the site visit, thanks to you all. I’m looking forward to the mid-grant review!
**Ed Planning Committee**

The Ed Planning Committee has been busy putting together distance education degree plans for the 4 committed distance programs (Marquette CNM, Concordia NP, UW Eau Claire NP and UW Madison PA). Each distance program developed a sample plan for how a student would complete his or her degree via distance education options. By creating these plans the committee was able to see which courses can be shared by the programs and where they needed to focus development. This information will be useful in planning for the FIPSE grant, as well as others.

The UW Madison PA Program has also created a proposal for the Minnesota PFT project to share courses. Minnesota is in need of a PA program to continue their project, so they suggested partnering with WisTREC. Jeannette presented the WisTREC proposal along with the UW Madison PA Program’s degree plan to MnPFT at their site visit for consideration. Details of cost sharing are being worked out.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course (course number)</th>
<th>Semester available</th>
<th>Instructor or Contact Person</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pharmacotherapy for the Primary Care Provider</td>
<td>Summer 2000</td>
<td>Sharon Nellis 608-263-5167</td>
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<td>Pharmacy Discussion (N617)</td>
<td>Summer 2000</td>
<td>Sharon Nellis 608-263-5167</td>
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<td>Women's Health Modules (N280)</td>
<td>Fall 2000</td>
<td>Leona VandeVusse 414-283-3808</td>
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<td>Care During Pregnancy (N282)</td>
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<td>Care During Labor &amp; Delivery (286)</td>
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<td>Health Care Systems (130)</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Ruth Gresley 414-243-5700</td>
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<td>Nursing Theory (834)</td>
<td>Spring 2000</td>
<td>Ruth Gresley 414-243-5700</td>
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<td>Primary Medicine 1 (410)</td>
<td>Summer 2000</td>
<td>Jack Handley 414-23985-5688</td>
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<td>Human Responses in Health and Illness (719)</td>
<td>Fall 2000</td>
<td>Sue Moch 715-336-4189</td>
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<td>Issues in Prof. Practice for PAs</td>
<td>Spring 2000</td>
<td>Jerry Noonk 608-263-5620</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nursing Research (840)</td>
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<td>Ruth Gresley 414-243-5700</td>
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<td>Bioethics for Health Care (802)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intro to Graduate Education</td>
<td>Summer 2000</td>
<td>Winnie Mose 715-336-5629</td>
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<td>Interdisciplinary Rural Primary Health Care Practice (cross-listed: PA600 and N600)</td>
<td>Fall 2000</td>
<td>Linda Bauman 608-263-5272</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cross Cultural Health</td>
<td>Spring 2001</td>
<td>Anna Alexander-Doelle 715-337-9554</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family Development</td>
<td>Spring 2001</td>
<td>Ruth Gresley 414-243-5700</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lab Medicine (440)</td>
<td>Spring 2001</td>
<td>Forrest Gridley 608-263-5620</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advanced Practice (N51, 861)</td>
<td>Summer 2000</td>
<td>Ruth Gresley 414-243-5700</td>
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**Utilization Refocuses Efforts**

The Utilization committee is proud to announce the completion of the *Physician Assistants, Nurse Practitioners, Certified Nurse Midwives: Employment Guide*. After many long months of writing, reviewing and rewriting the *Employment Guide*, the committee will be mailing out 300 copies of the finished product to employer and WisTREC partners around the state as of the end of February. As part of its WisTREC partnership, American Family Insurance provided complimentary printing of the guide. If you haven’t received your copy by the first week in March, contact the WisTREC office at (608) 262-8755.

With the completion of the *Employment Guide* the Utilization committee decided to rekindle its connections with AHEC. In the January meeting five areas common to WisTREC and AHEC goals were identified and presented to AHEC for discussion. Of those, four were targeted as having the best potential for collaboration (see side bar). A new group, the Community Connections Committee, will act as the bridge between the Office of Rural Health, WisTREC, and AHEC in order to address these goals. Members of the Utilization Committee will be available to speak to large groups identified by the regional AHEC offices to present information from the *Employment Guide*. Several of them are already scheduled to appear on a panel at the Office of Rural Health’s Rural Health Forum on February 16th.

**Potential Collaborative Projects**

- Update the content of AHEC’s “Health Careers Book”.
- Making additional copies of the *Employment Guide* available to the regional offices for distribution.
- A dedicated health profession liaison at AHEC Regional offices to strengthen the collaboration of WisTREC and AHEC.
- Assessing health care personnel and continuing education needs in local clinics and critical access hospitals
Steering Committee

In January the Steering Committee met via audio conference to discuss WisTREC activities for the year. Committee chairs presented updates on what has been accomplished in the last 6 months. An operating budget for 2000 was approved and the 1999 annual report was edited.

At this same meeting the committee discussed the need for a collaborative effort with Minnesota’s PFT project (MnPFT) to establish a distance PA program. Last fall MnPFT approached WisTREC about sharing resources to develop Madison’s Distance PA program so Minnesota could fulfill the RWJ requirement of having a distance program from each discipline. The WisTREC Steering Committee voted to pursue negotiations with MnPFT. The details of the contract are still being worked out. If Minnesota commits to the collaboration it could bring as much as $30,000 to the Distance PA Program development budget providing much needed resources to get it up and running. Watch for development on this potential collaboration in future Updates.

Community Connections Committee formed

Now that development of complete distance program curricula is underway, WisTREC can turn to recruitment of potential students and meeting underserved communities’ needs. With this committee, the regional AHEC’s involvement in WisTREC will be revitalized. At their first meeting, at the WisTREC Retreat, the new committee determined that each AHEC would focus on potential communities in their region that would like to collaborate with WisTREC partners. Since then, the committee has had several meetings and a retreat to help focus efforts. They will be proactive in reaching local clinics and hospitals. To do that the committee will develop a kit to present the information of WisTREC, AHEC, and the provider groups. The kits will contain:

- Information on the Employment Guide
- Information on The Office of Rural Health & its Employment Exchange
- Information on WisTREC
- Information on the Collaborative Nursing Project
- Information on AHEC
- Office of Rural Health Video
- Letters from regional AHEC offices and WisTREC

Grants Awarded

Congratulations to Concordia NP and UW Madison NP programs! Concordia received an Ameritech Learning Technology grant of $10,000 for developing web-based NP degree courses. The UW Madison NP program was awarded a WebCT grant of $1,000 to develop a pediatric NP course for the internet.
March
3/2 Advisory Committee, 11:00-2:00
UW School of Nursing, Rm H6 215
3/10 Utilization Committee, 9:00-12:00
UW School of Nursing, Rm K6 162
3/14 Community Connections, 1:30-4:30
UW School of Nursing, Rm TBA
3/27 Ed Planning Committee, 1:00-3:00
Audio Conference, (608) 265-1000, 4011
3/28 Recruitment, Admission, Retention, 1:30-2:30
Audio Conference, (608) 265-1000, 4011

April
4/14 Utilization Committee, 9:00-12:00
UW School of Nursing, Rm K6 162

May
5/4 Steering Committee, 11:00-1:00
Audio conference, (608) 265-1000, 4011
5/12 Utilization Committee, 9:00-12:00
UW School of Nursing, Rm K6 162
5/22 Ed Planning Committee, 1:00-3:00
Audio Conference, (608) 265-1000, 4011

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