

**NNLM Final Report  
April 26, 2006**

Title of the Project: Locating Health Care Resources for Rural Communities Internet Project

Type of Award: NN/LM Outreach Award

Name of Institution: Oregon Pacific Area Health Education Center

Location of Institution: Oregon State University, 327 Snell Hall, Corvallis, OR 97331

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## **NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION**

1. Summary/Introduction: The overall goal of this project was to enhance consumer use of on-line medical education resources in rural northwest Oregon. The program served both students and adults in six rural Oregon counties. At the end of the project, 284 students had been provided with classroom instruction about medical Internet resources, mainly focusing on MedlinePlus and the History of Medicine sites. 950 students attended school fairs where they received MedlinePlus information, 875 community members attended local health fairs where they received this information, and 71 health care providers attended a chronic disease conference where they received information about medical Internet resources, PubMed and MedlinePlus. In addition to providing these resources, 15 community newspapers received twelve news articles about health care topics and Internet resources. Also, fifteen high school health career instructors received six newsletters about health careers and information about Internet resources and presentation options for their students.

2. Geographic region: Six rural coastal and valley communities received services and include, Benton County, Tillamook County, Lincoln County, Yamhill County, Linn County and Polk County.

3. Collaborations and Partnerships: Partnerships included school district personnel, health teachers, health occupation instructors, Linn Benton Community College, two tribes, Samaritan Health Services, and community coalitions organizing community health fairs.

4. Training:

Total Number of Sessions: 19

Total Number of Sessions with minority populations: 7

Total number of participants in project sessions: 284

Breakdown of participants: All high school students

5. Training sites:

All training took part in rural high schools, some in a classroom setting, some in high school computer labs

Training sites:

Newport High School, Newport, OR, rural coast

Newberg High School, Newberg, OR, rural community, farming community

Corvallis High School, Corvallis, OR, rural community, farming community

Monroe High School, Monroe, OR, rural community, farming community

Taft High School, Lincoln City, OR, rural coast

Willamina High School, Willamina OR, tribal community

Eddyville School, Eddyville, OR, logging community

Toledo High School, Toledo, OR, tribal community

## 6. Exhibits:

List all the exhibits :

Coastal Clinic Kids Fair, 9/6/04, Lincoln City, OR, 75 Hispanic participants  
La Fiesta Resource Fair, 10/5/04, Corvallis, OR, 350 Hispanic participants  
Yamhill College Fair, 11/23/04, McMinnville, OR 300 student participants  
Benton County Youth Summit, 2/9/05, Corvallis, OR, 300 minority students  
Tillamook High School Career Fair, 4/22/05, Tillamook, OR 400 rural students  
Grand Ronde Career Fair, 4/27/05, Grand Ronde, OR , 150 Native American students  
Taft High School Career Fair, 4/28/05, Lincoln City, OR 100 rural students  
Lincoln City Health Fair, 4/29/05, Lincoln City, OR, 200 community members  
Salud Health Fair, 9/12/05, Woodburn, OR, 200 Hispanic participants  
Children's Health Fair, 9/19/05, Lincoln City, OR, 50 community participants  
Preventing Chronic Disease Conference, 10/11/05, Lincoln City, OR 71 healthcare professionals

MedlinePlus materials distributed at fairs. Well received by participants. More discussion in the evaluation of the events.

## 7. Resource Materials:

A PowerPoint presentation was developed to deliver the information about MedlinePlus and other NNLM sites. Newsletters were developed and emailed to health occupation instructors. Health articles with references to health web sites were developed for 15 community newspapers and they were emailed or mailed on a monthly basis. Communication with teachers was best accomplished through email.

8. Web Sites: None developed with this project

9. Document Delivery: None with this project.

## 10. Approaches and interventions used:

Linn Benton Community College organizes quarterly meetings with health occupation teachers in the northwest Oregon region. A presentation was developed for this group and presented at the beginning of the project. Email addresses were obtained from 15 teachers and follow up to schedule presentations was then completed. Quarterly newsletters were also developed and emailed to teachers with a reminder about MedlinePlus presentation options.

## 11. Evaluation:

Students: At the time of presentations, surveys were distributed to all participants to determine the usefulness of the training program content, instructional style and handout materials. Students rated the presentations highly. Teacher comments also confirmed their appreciation of the presentations.

Three surveys were developed at the end of the project to help determine the usefulness of the community fairs, student presentations, and newspaper submissions. The first was a survey provided to fair participants. The difficulty with this survey was identifying participants willing to complete a survey. Participants are leery of giving names and addresses at community fairs. However, some were willing and those participants were surveyed. Survey results are attached. The second survey questioned health occupation teachers. Teachers were responsive to the survey and two thirds reported that they now use MedlinePlus for assignments. Survey results are attached. The third survey was mailed to health editors at the 15 community newspaper who received health articles. Local papers in general occasionally used the health articles and most wanted to continue receiving them. Survey results are attached.

12. Problems or barriers encountered. There were really no significant barriers. Using email to contact teachers worked very well; otherwise it was difficult to contact them, as calling during the day interrupted their classes. It would have been nice to have hands on sessions with all the high school students and that happened in some schools; however, the computer labs were not always available when the sessions were scheduled. Nevertheless, teachers reported that 100% of their students have computer access sometime during the school day which is encouraging. Teachers reported that two thirds of students use MedlinePlus on a regular basis.

13. Continuation Plans: Oregon Pacific AHEC will continue to attend both community and high school fairs and will distribute MedlinePlus information. Occasional school presentations will also be offered.

14. Impact: There are two main impacts. One is the increased visibility of the library and their Internet resources. The second and most importantly, is the use of these new resources in the public schools.

15. Recommendations for improvement: Nothing at this time.

### **Follow-up questions:**

1. Were your original project goals and objectives met? Most objectives were met.

Objective: Provide 10 high school classes with MedlinePlus presentations.

Result: 19 classes presented with MedlinePlus presentations.

Objective: Attend 5 high school career fairs.

Result: 5 high school career fairs attended.

Objective: Participate in three multi cultural health fairs.

Result: participation in three Hispanic health fairs.

Objective: Produce 12 news articles with references to medical web sites.

Result: 12 news articles produced and distributed to 15 community news papers.

Objective: Publish 6 newsletters for health occupation teachers.

Result: 6 newsletters were produced and emailed to 15 teachers.

Objective: Present MedlinePlus information to Medstars camp participants.

Result: camp cancelled. Additional classroom presentations substituted for this activity.

2. What significant lessons were learned? Most importantly, teachers are desperate for teaching resources. As all the rural schools, some of them very small, and very rural participating in project have computer labs, students have access to the Internet. Teachers, both health and health career instructors, like the idea of using MedlinePlus for assignments. Teachers reported using this resource in their curriculum. The strategy that worked for this project was the initial meeting with the teachers at the Linn Benton Community College education program and follow up with email.
3. If you were to start all over again, what , if anything, would you change about your goals? I would not change anything. I think this program was very successful in reaching large numbers of students and the Hispanic and Native American population. Medstars camp will resume in July of 2006, so there should be opportunity to provide this group of students with medical Internet resource information.
4. What advice or recommendations would you give to anyone considering a similar outreach effort? I would suggest contacting a local health careers instructor to find out when they meet as a group and schedule a time to meet with this group to introduce the idea. Obtaining email addresses of teachers is also very helpful as it is difficult to reach instructors by phone.