Grants program gets underway with workshops

The UCSF University Community Partnerships Council kicked off its first annual grants cycle with a series of mandatory workshops for grant applicants during the second week of March. Over 180 potential applicants came to ask questions about university community partnerships, network with other University and community members, and learn about this exciting new funding opportunity. Through offering funding to support collaborative projects between the University and the San Francisco community, the Council hopes to strengthen the investment in the community and promote civic engagement.

UCPP is pleased to partner with the Tides Foundation to help administer the grants program. Since 1976, Tides Foundation has partnered with donors and institutions by offering donor-advised funds, philanthropic advice and management services for progressive social change philanthropy. The large turn-out at the workshops showed a clear interest in university community partnerships. Many attendees spoke of year-long partnerships that benefit San Francisco residents in a variety of ways, from education to job training. Those who came to the workshops without a University or community partner were eager to make linkages and develop new programs. The application deadline is April 18 and grant awards will be announced in late May. -Amie Vogt (photo: Jane Lin, Tides Foundation and Eba Sanchez, UCPP)

Partnerships in action...

As UCSF and its many community partners can attest, partnerships are by nature mutually beneficial and, to be successful, depend on sharing a common interest and building trust. This month we are highlighting a partnership between the Progress Foundation and the UCSF School of Nursing. Spearheading this 13 year old program are Council members Gerri Collins-Bride, a clinical professor and vice chair of the Department of Community Health Systems, UCSF School of Nursing and John Nickens, Director of Clinical Services of the Progress Foundation.

The Progress Foundation provides an array of residential treatment programs, ranging from acute alternatives to in-patient care to transitional residential treatment to supported housing for severely mentally ill persons being treated in the public health system. John partnered with Gerri to integrate primary care services with mental health and substance abuse treatment, building a comprehensive community health system by allowing clients to gain a greater understanding of their medical conditions, require fewer trips to the emergency room and to access to more treatment programs.

UCSF is able to offer its nursing students an opportunity to learn and practice primary care skills in a community setting. Their fifteen year partnership has been so successful it is now considered a best practices model nationwide, and primary care partnerships are now required of all San Francisco Community Behavioral Health programs. -Amie Vogt

UCCP looks forward to collaborating with other community based organizations in order to implement workforce development programs that will benefit San Francisco’s many diverse communities.

UCSF partners with JVS for Best Pro Training

In January of 2008 UCPP partnered with JVS to host the BEST Pro professional development seminars at its Laurel Heights Campus. For the past seven years JVS has been offering the BEST Pro seminars to employment services professionals in order to provide capacity building services to other community based organizations. Participants of the program receive up to 36 hours of training through a selection of three hour workshops. The 12 week seminar is broken down into three separate 4-week modules which focus on the following key workforce development topics: Providing Job Search Assistance, Working with Employers, and Working with Participants.

With over 50 registrants representing 28 different workforce development agencies throughout San Francisco and the East Bay attending the seminars, UCPP is proud to support JVS’s efforts by providing partial funding for the program, hosting the seminars at the UCSF Laurel Heights campus, and bringing in representatives from several UCSF Human Resources departments as guest speakers.

(UCPP looks forward to collaborating with other community based organizations in order to implement workforce development programs that will benefit San Francisco’s many diverse communities. -Damon Lew)

References:

- Gerri Collins-Bride, a clinical professor and vice chair of the Department of Community Health Systems, UCSF School of Nursing
- John Nickens, Director of Clinical Services of the Progress Foundation
- Damon Lew