

Partnerships in Diversity: A multi-pronged collaboration with the School of Public Health

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A core strategic mission at the University of Michigan's School of Public Health (SPH) is building a greater focus on diversity initiatives. The Taubman Health Sciences Library (THL) consistently seeks to embed quality information resources and services into units across campus to support their information needs.

Members of the THL public health informationist team reached out to SPH's Academic Diversity Initiatives Director with an opportunity to collaborate and integrate resources and services in support of the SPH diversity mission. Through this collaboration, THL facilitates SPH's ability to attract, train, and engage students, faculty, and staff who bring a range of diverse experiences and perspectives to the larger intellectual community.

Objectives

To develop and sustain a partnership in support of a School of Public Health's (SPH) diversity strategic plan.

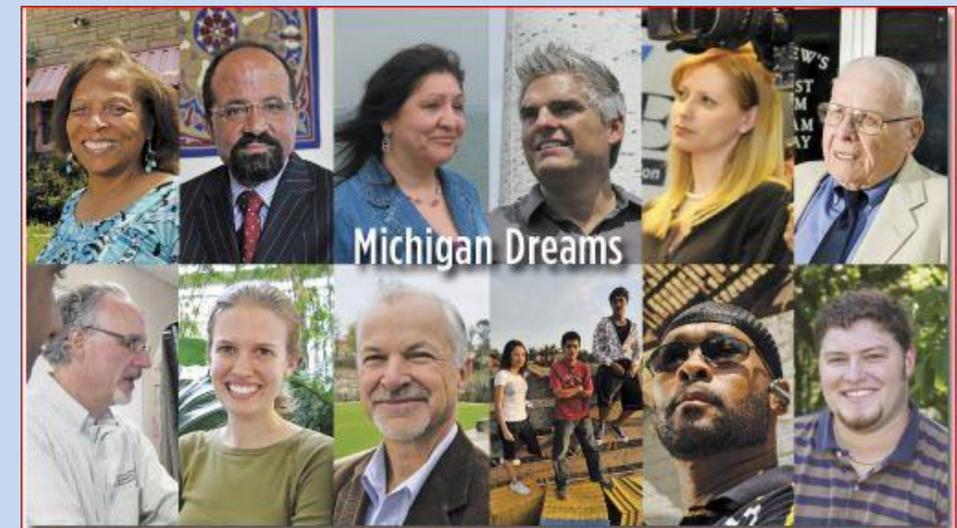
Project Description

Beginning in Fall 2011, two THL informationists began meeting with the Director of Academic Diversity Initiatives at SPH to discuss partnerships to support SPH's diversity efforts. Conversations among the team were an exploration driven by the shared priority of increasing diversity and the value of quality information resources and services in this process.

Proposed Services Include:

- Expert searching on diversity and innovation in public health; recruitment; climate assessment.
- Development of online resources to integrate diversity-related content into the curriculum
- Initiatives to help SPH recruit a diverse student body.
- Publicity for SPH special events and workshops.
- Tailored workshops for faculty, staff, and students.

While the collaboration is still in its initial stages, public health informationists and the SPH's Academic Diversity Initiatives Director have forged a dynamic working relationship and laid the foundation for many future partnerships. Through continuous contact, the informationists have a deeper understanding of SPH's mission, goals, and priorities. This insight enables informationists to immerse themselves into the SPH environment and partner with SPH colleagues to embed information resources and services to support its solid commitment to diversity.



Awareness & Engagement



Assessment



Action & Education

Future Directions

- Continue to be responsive to SPH's evolving needs through the team's and SPH's research and innovation.
- Collaborate on undergraduate themed semester, "Understanding Race."
- Create online resource guides for diversity resources that could be integrated into courses and utilized by faculty and staff.
- Assist SPH efforts in innovative recruitment strategies.
- Partner with the Academic Diversity Initiatives Director and other SPH administrators to review and enhance SPH's web site.
- Continue to connect the Academic Diversity Initiatives Director with campus resources.

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