The need for the Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU) eHealth project is substantiated by the fact that African American residents of Houston’s Third Ward are underserved and underrepresented in terms of adequate healthcare and access to healthcare facilities, and that access to healthcare affects health outcomes.

Project Overview

The PVAMU eHealth Project PI (Ms. Sheila Harvin) with the support of a core team representing the PVAMU College of Nursing, the Houston Academy of Medicine-Texas Medical Center Campus (HAM-TMC), and community partner - Families Under Urban and Social Attack, Inc. (FUUSA) propose to improve health literacy and meet the needs of 280 residents living in Houston’s historic Third Ward.

Strategy of the Project Team

The PVAMU eHealth project is designed to directly impact the quality of healthcare for residents of the Third Ward by increasing the number of options of healthcare resources available to them. Sixty (60) PVAMU College of Nursing (CON) students will be trained to integrate community service with instruction and reflection on the NLM online resources. Addition of the NLM resources component will enrich their learning experience, promote civic responsibility, and strengthen their concern and capacity for meeting community needs.

PVAMU ACCESS Project campus-community partners attend the Orientation and Professional Development Meeting along with UNCFSP staff, NLM Project Officer, and the ACCESS Advisory Board mentor.

PVAMU CON students will play a major role as eHealth trainers with the UNCFSP/NLM HBCU ACCESS Project.

PVAMU eHealth Project goal:

To increase utilization of NLM online resources for African-American community participants residing in the Third Ward of Houston, Texas

Project research activities:

• Provide initial and ongoing training related to accessing NLM database websites to 90% of PVAMU CON undergraduates
• Administer pre-test surveys; provide community residents with basic computer literacy skills required to access and use the NLM online health resources databases
• Provide NLM online database access and utilization training to community residents
• Provide consultation & resources regarding NLM to students and faculty
• Administer post-test surveys and analyze quantitative and qualitative data
• Disseminate results

Health disparities focus:
Obesity, infant mortality, diabetes, HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases, heart disease, stroke, and cancer

Supporting community partners:
1. Houston Academy of Medicine-Texas Medical Center Campus (HAM-TMC) Library
   Dr. Elizabeth K. Eaton, Executive Director
2. Families Under Urban and Social Attack, Inc. (FUUSA)
   Rev. Leslie Smith, II, Chief Executive Officer and Founder

2009 ACCESS Project PI:
Ms. Sheila Harvin, RN
Assistant Professor, College of Nursing
Tel: 713-797-7025; Email: shharvin@PVAMU.edu

Project Mentor:
Dr. Larry R. Shannon
Shannon and Associates, Inc.