

High School Peer Tutor Outreach Project

The following case is based on an actual outreach project conducted in Texas near the Mexican border [Warner DG, Olney CA, Wood FB, Hansen L, Bowden VS. "High school peer tutors teach MedlinePlus: A model for Hispanic outreach." *JMLA* 2005 Apr; 93(2): 243-252]. Students, faculty and staff at a health careers high school collaborated with librarians from a health science library to train the school community on use of MedlinePlus. The National Library of Medicine provided funding to the health science library to develop outreach projects for the Hispanic communities in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

We start the case example at an early stage in the project: the point when the health science librarian, charged with developing outreach projects in the region, started to network and form partnerships in the community. The librarian responsible for the contract had just moved to the area to manage a regional academic health center library and run the outreach project. She had no community partners when the project started. Through networking and community assessment, she initiated a partnership with school librarians to develop the High School Peer Tutor Outreach Program.

We use this case example to demonstrate how to use worksheets included in this booklet to conduct community assessment. We first present completed worksheets, based on the case example described here. The first worksheet allows you to develop a networking plan to meet potential outreach partners and to record important information about your networking activities. The second worksheet is designed to record important information about the community sites that you plan to include in your outreach project. These completed worksheets are followed by blank ones for your use.