

Abstracts Details

SEARCH

SEARCH Program	Tennessee Primary Care Association - SEARCH
Contractor Organization Type	Primary Care Association – non-profit
Project Director	Kathy Wood-Dobbins
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Website	www.tnpca.org
Project Service Focus	<i>Urban/Central City/Rural</i>
Length of Rotation	4 to 8 weeks
Disciplines eligible for rotation	Nurse practitioners, PA, MD & DO students, graduate social work students, dentists
Project Infrastructure Focus	Training
Products and Dissemination	
Stipend/Living Cost	Yes
General Description of Your Program	<p>The Tennessee Primary Care Association (TPCA) is a 34 year-old not-for-profit organization whose mission is to strengthen community-based primary health care systems in Tennessee. The organization is particularly interested in assuring access to high-quality primary health care services for the state's medically underserved communities and populations.</p> <p>The TPCA SEARCH program focuses on placing 22 health professions students in four primary workforce needs of TN community health centers: primary care physicians, dentists, behavioral health providers and advanced practice nurses. Emphasis is placed on the integration of primary and behavioral health care as TN is on the forefront of the integrated service delivery model. Providing behavioral health students with an opportunity to practice in an integrated setting is unique.</p>
Goals and Objectives	TPCA's goals and objectives include: 1) Provide opportunities for students to implement their classroom experiences in a health care setting, 2) Provide opportunities for students and residents to train on multidisciplinary primary health care teams, 3) Nurture the development of culturally competent, community-focused primary and allied health care providers, and 4) Expand

	<p>statewide partnerships with the to form a network of organizations to meet the diverse primary care needs of the underserved.</p>
<p>Activities undertaken by Students/Residents in Program</p>	<p>SEARCH students will complete a clinical rotation in a community health center and will have a preceptor and mentor at his or her assigned site. At the beginning of the placements, the SEARCH student and preceptor will meet and establish learning objectives. Students will complete a community project which will provide the students the chance to take action and apply what they are learning. Students will have the opportunity to network with other SEARCH students and mentors. Online resources are made available to learn more about careers in community health.</p>
<p>Coordination</p>	<p>Participants will be selected to participate in the SEARCH program through the following process and criteria: 1) Students complete an application form, 2) Students must write a one-page essay explaining why they are interested in working in an underserved community. Our goal is to recruit students who are most likely to seek careers in underserved communities. The SEARCH Project Director will work with students and placement sites to make appropriate placements.</p> <p>TPCA will work in coordination with The Rural Partnership (TRP) to place primary care residents.</p>
<p>List of Sites Students can/will be rotating through</p>	<p>Federally Qualified Health Centers comprise the majority of our membership. Other members include faith-based organizations, rural health clinics and federally qualified health center look-alike clinics. These 32 organizations with their 132 clinic sites throughout the state provide potential rotation sites for the SEARCH program.</p> <p>A map of all TN CHCs can be found at www.tnpca.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=52 The SEARCH Project Director will work with the sites to assess their readiness for a student placement and work with specific student needs to make placements.</p>
<p>Evaluation</p>	<p>SEARCH students will receive feedback from their preceptor on their clinical rotation. Students will be asked to complete an evaluation of their experience.</p>
<p>Are you a former SEARCH Program</p>	<p>Yes</p>