

CORPS CONNECTIONS

SCHOLARS
November 2011

Successful First Corps Community Day!

The National Health Service Corps (NHSC) celebrated the first Corps Community Day on October 13, 2011 and announced 10,000 NHSC providers are now working in underserved communities, the largest Corps in history.



A total of 75 events and activities were planned in 46 States and Puerto Rico to celebrate the occasion. NHSC Scholars at Whitman-Walker Health's Elizabeth Taylor Medical Center in Washington, DC organized an event for students in various health fields to come see what their future careers would look like in a community health center. These events highlighted the leadership and dedication of the NHSC providers, sites and partners, and the importance of access to primary care.

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The impact of the Corps was underscored by the announcement that, through the Affordable Care Act, Recovery Act, and annual appropriation, more than 10,000 primary care providers are now supported through the NHSC. Together, these clinicians are providing health care services to more than 10 million people a year.



NHSC provider Kolleen Simons, MSW, LCSW CCDP-D and The Right Solution Counseling Services in Eureka, Missouri sponsored the "Get Fit for Your Mental Health" event in support of Corps Community Day. More than 40 individuals participated in this fitness-based fundraising event for Bring Change 2 Mind, a non-profit organization that provides services and education for those affected by mental illness.



Delaware Valley Community Health provider Scott Anderman volunteered with other providers to offer free blood pressure and blood sugar screenings at the Corps Community Day Wellness Event at Maria de los Santos Health Center in Philadelphia.

Event Calendar



NHSC New Scholar Orientation Webinar *

December 1, 2011
8:00 p.m. ET

*Only intended for those new scholars who **did not attend** the New Scholar Orientation and Conference, October 27-29 in New Orleans, LA.

17th Annual Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology Conference
December 14-16, 2011
New Orleans, LA

NHSC Launches New Web Site

This month the NHSC launched its new Web site. The redesigned Web site offers more information to assist you as an active Corps member, including information about your Corps commitment, answers to your frequently asked questions, and direct links to the Customer Service Portal, local resources, and PrimaryCareForAll.org. You can also find the latest news and information from the NHSC.

The site also highlights the important work of some of our NHSC sites, scholars, and loan repayment recipients through stories and videos.

Check it out today: <http://www.nhsc.hrsa.gov>

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services | www.hhs.gov

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS

THE CORPS EXPERIENCE | LOAN REPAYMENT | SCHOLARSHIPS | SITES

Search NHSC

Offering financial support to PRIMARY CARE PROVIDERS

Learn more about how you can pay back your student loans while giving back to your community.

→ LEARN MORE

Resources for

- Current Members
- Ambassadors
- NHSC Alumni
- NHSC Partners

Application Status
Loan Repayment
Next application cycle opens fall 2011. Already applied for the 2011

LOAN REPAYMENT
Primary care providers can pay off student loans while serving in communities with limited access to health care.

SCHOLARSHIPS
Students pursuing careers in primary care can receive scholarships for serving communities in need upon graduation and completion of residency.

NHSC SITES
Clinical practice sites can recruit and retain qualified providers by becoming an NHSC-approved site.

Share Your NHSC Story!

The NHSC recently began highlighting the many accomplishments and great work that our providers are doing across the country in [Stories from the Field](#), a new feature on the [NHSC Facebook Page](#). NHSC encourages you to read more about these special NHSC providers and their communities.

Do you know an outstanding NHSC member who should be profiled in Stories from the Field? [Email us](#) and nominate them! Be sure to tell us why you think their contributions to their community and the NHSC make them an exceptional member!

Do you want to be featured in Stories from the Field? [Email us](#) and tell us your story. What does being part of the NHSC mean to you? Let us know!



Complimentary Cultural Competency Resources Available through PrimaryCareForAll.org

Cultural competency-related resources are for clinicians who want to ensure a comprehensive care environment that is sensitive to a range of cultural customs and beliefs.

A variety of complimentary resources are available to NHSC scholars through <http://www.PrimaryCareForAll.org> including:

- [Best Practices](#) – videos or products featuring conceptual best practices.
- [Tools and Templates](#) – productivity-formatted documents (Word, Excel, PDF, etc) for download and use.
- [Links](#) – links to relevant associations, institutions, programs and/or articles.

All NHSC scholars have complimentary access to <http://www.PrimaryCareForAll.org>.

Forgot your login information?

Email admin@PrimaryCareForAll.org to request it.



Free NHSC Provider Resources Available through the SAMHSA-HRSA Center for Integrated Health Solutions

The [SAMHSA-HRSA Center for Integrated Health Solutions](#) (CIHS) promotes the development of integrated primary and behavioral health services to better address the needs of individuals with mental health and substance use conditions, whether seen in specialty behavioral health or primary care provider settings. The CIHS is run by the National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare under a cooperative agreement from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and is funded jointly by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and the Health Resources and Services Administration.

NHSC providers can access helpful, [free resources on a variety of health care topics](#), including the following webinars: Peer Support Wellness Respite Centers; Implementing Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) in Clinical Settings; Person-Centered Health Homes; Introduction to Effective Behavioral Health in Primary Care and Establishing Smoking Cessation Initiatives in Health Centers.

Gain Hands-On Experience through Clinical Rotations

The NHSC encourages scholars to take advantage of clinical rotations, which offer unique learning opportunities in community-based practice in underserved areas. These rotations offer medical, dental and mental health students and residents a unique primary care training experience working with patients in underserved urban and rural areas. NHSC providers and alumni support these opportunities by serving as preceptors.

Student/Resident Experiences and Rotations in Community Health (SEARCH) is a State-based program that provides students and residents the opportunity to experience clinical rotations on multidisciplinary health care teams working in communities with limited access to health care across the nation. The program will allow you to:

- Improve ambulatory care clinical skills
- Work with patients from diverse communities and cultures
- Serve as a valued member of an experienced multi-disciplinary health care team
- Benefit from the mentorship of a dedicated preceptor

Students can apply to participate on a SEARCH rotation through any of the 28 active programs. Rotations are designed and implemented by State and local organizations, so each one is different. Typically, the SEARCH rotation includes clinical practice and a community service project that gives participants an opportunity to learn more about the community.

The Health Resources and Services Administration provides funding to State Primary Care Offices, Primary Care Associations, Offices of Rural Health, Area Health Education Centers and other organizations to operate SEARCH programs. These organizations also offer a variety of additional resources to students while in school, so NHSC encourages you to contact your local representative.

Learn more about SEARCH: <http://nhsc.hrsa.gov/scholarships/educationaltrainingopportunities/index.html>

Highlights from NHSC New Scholar Orientation Conference – Clinica Campesina Family Health Services: A Patient-Centered Approach to Care

The NHSC recently hosted its New Scholar Orientation Conference, October 27-29, 2011 in New Orleans, LA. One of the most well-received sessions of the conference was the working lunch plenary – “Clinica Campesina Family Health Services: A Patient-Centered Approach to Care”. The interactive session featured Pete Leibig, President and CEO of Clinica Family Health Services and two of his clinicians who were also former NHSC scholars, Maria Somerset, D.O. and Catherine Salaguero, PA-C. During the discussion, the panelists discussed the challenges and benefits they experienced when they changed Clinica’s care model to a patient-centered medical home. They also addressed how these policies can be sustained and how care can be standardized, as well as the importance of co-location, workflows, and standing orders in this model.

Learn more about [Clinica Campesina](#) and read more about changes to the care model in the *New England Journal of Medicine* article [“Lessons from the Trenches — A High-Functioning Primary Care Clinic”](#) by [Thomas Bodenheimer, M.D.](#)

Tell a Friend about NHSC Programs and Encourage Them to Apply

Do you know someone who is a fourth-year medical student or a clinician who's already working at an NHSC site? Please share these important deadlines with them!

- **Students to Service Loan Repayment Pilot Program** – Now accepting applications; submission deadline: December 14, 2011
- **Loan Repayment Program** – Opens December 6, 2011; submission deadline: May 15, 2012

NHSC Launches New Alumni Network

The NHSC Alumni Network officially launched this month. NHSC has thousands of alumni who have made a significant contribution to the health of the nation's underserved communities. The Alumni Network provides a means for the NHSC to connect with its alumni and enables them to connect with one another.

If you know an NHSC alumnus, help us spread the word about this new network. More information is available on our Web site at <http://nhsc.hrsa.gov/alumni/index.html>.

Questions or Comments?

If you have ideas or suggestions for future issues, please send them to info@nhscrtsc.net.



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