TRAIN: An Innovative Approach to Public Health Education
Lois D. Banks

The following personal financial relationships with commercial interests relevant to this presentation existed during the past 12 months:

No Relationships to Disclose
This session will discuss:

• how TRAIN allows users to access over 18,000 public health courses, track learning and maintain personal educational records; and

• how TRAIN can be utilized as a recruitment tool for the future public health workforce.

https://www.train.org
One of the major technological innovations that has taken place in continuing education over the past seven years has been the emergence of learning management systems.

A learning management system (LMS) is an automated system for administering the learning process within an organization.

The deployment of learning management systems to help develop personnel has become mainstream in most successful, large organizations.
The advantages begin with access to the training itself. Good learning management systems allow you to sort through global online catalogs for complete access to all the learning available to you and then easily filter through this information to select the courses that match your specific needs for training and certification.

You can access all of your learning resources through a single point of access.

https://www.train.org
Good learning management systems also allow you to evaluate your level of skill before embarking on a specific training.

This tool allows you to gain a better understanding of where you are today to determine which courses are needed to reach your learning goals.

This gives you the ability to construct development paths for yourself to view your own progress against your goals.

https://www.train.org
A sophisticated learning management system allows users to collaborate with their peers, both within their organization and across the industry, through discussion boards and course reviews.

This gives you access to personalized training information, expert resources, and support through a single point of entry.

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Finally, and perhaps the most advantageous, is the ability of an LMS to allow you to fully manage and track your own learning.

The best learning management systems have a documented transcript to serve as a dynamic record of your learning. It keeps track of everything you do - all of the live training attended, all of the e-learning courses taken, what stage you have reached within the course, assessments and evaluations taken, and all other activities.

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The power of the transcript is its ability to show how much you have invested in your learning and how much has been achieved. Clearly, this is an enormous advantage when applying for promotions, seeking a new job, or approaching your organization about furthering your training.
HISTORY OF TRAIN
History of TRAIN

• Developed in 2003 in response to state requests
• A single system that permits and promotes sharing and learning across states
• Over 40 states and 400 health professionals involved in planning
• Continually improved with investments from many affiliates
• More than 380,000 registered learners

https://www.train.org
TRAIN is composed of 22 states and two national organizations, the Medical Reserve Corps and CDC’s Division of Global Migration and Quarantine.
WHAT IS TRAIN?
What is TRAIN?

• A web-based tool for health-related training

• Established as the most comprehensive distance learning clearinghouse for public health professionals
  - Database of over 18,000 courses; over 3,500 course providers; over 380,000 registered learners
  - National Sponsors; including the CDC, HRSA, and PHF
  - Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals plus Bioterrorism and Emergency Readiness Competencies

• Supports CDC goals and reporting requirements
TRAIN offers two major course types
* Electronic courses
* Event-style courses
  - Posts live training event information
    (Register for Conferences, classes, exercises, seminars, etc. including date, time, place, maps, etc.)

- Allows Course Providers to post learning content for a wide array of audiences

- Features a dynamic “search engine” for training

https://www.train.org
• Features an Announcement board
• Tracks and reports user activity
• Tracks user course reviews
• Hosts Discussion boards
• Offers pre-test, post-test, and evaluation features
• Holds user Transcripts
• Allows users to receive CEU credits

https://www.train.org
TRAIN also has a great return on investment

https://www.train.org
TRAIN is...

• Free for the learner!
• Convenient!
• User friendly!
• Available to you 24/7!
• Accessible anywhere!

It only requires a computer with internet connection!
(High Speed Access Is Preferred)

https://www.train.org
TRAIN IS...
MORE THAN JUST A
LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
TRAIN is also a VENUE for PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH

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2008 – CDC calls for proposals to develop a program designed to increase the number of minority undergraduate students who pursue a career in public health
PHF was awarded funding for this initiative through the CDC Cooperative Agreement
Year 1 – Planning

Year 2 – Implementation

Year 3 – Tracking and Replicating
Questions?

https://www.train.org
A Model for Recruiting Minorities to Public Health Careers: Analysis of the Data
Presenter Disclosures

Michelle E. Clausen, BS

The following personal financial relationships with commercial interests relevant to this presentation existed during the past 12 months:

No Relationships to Disclose
In an effort to develop an outreach plan that would increase the number of minorities that pursue a public health career, PHF and Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU), and CDC entered into partnership to develop, implement, analyze, and track a pilot project.
• Participants in this initiative responded to survey and evaluation questions

• Compiled data is being used to improve upon and replicate this model
You will learn how TRAIN can be used to:

- Collect and analyze data
- Track the participants in an initiative of this nature
A total of 40 students had signed up to take these courses
Expanded the parameters of the project to include Master’s Level Students
What does the data show?

- **83** students registered on TRAIN to participate in this initiative

  **Out of this number:**
  - **37** students completed the course and evaluation
  - **5** students completed the course but not the evaluation *
  - **41** students began, but did not complete the course or the evaluation

*note: these 5 students are not included in the total number of students that completed the course, as they did not complete the evaluation.*)
What is Public Health?

Course ID# 101090

Course Provider: Midwest Center for Life-Long Learning in Public Health

Course Description: This course presents basic public health concepts including:

- The principles of public health
- Essential Services of Public Health
- The importance of collaboration across governmental and private sector entities
- Achievements and future challenges of public health
- Cultural Competency
- Application of these elements is stressed through two case studies:
  - Public health emergency response to an anhydrous ammonia spill
  - An American Indian community that is faced with increasing obesity and diabetes rates among school-age children
Out of the 12 students that completed both the training and evaluation, there were 3 undergraduate (2 females and 1 male) and 9 graduate students (8 females and 1 male).
On a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 = poor and 5 = excellent, 8 participants rated the appropriateness and quality of this training as “Excellent”
When asked if the training changed their perspective/attitude about entering public health, 10 out of the 12 respondents answered in the affirmative.
Orientation to Public Health

Course ID# 1000614

Course Provider: New York-New Jersey Public Health Training Center

Course Description:

• This web-based course is designed for support and technical staff in public health agencies. It would be helpful for anyone new to public health practice. The course can be incorporated into routine orientation programs.
• Course objectives: As a result of taking this course, participants will be able to:
  • Define public health and its obligations.
  • Explain how public health differs from health care
  • Give examples of how a local health agency carries out the essential services of public health.
• This interactive course incorporates simulated e-mail messaging, assignment of tasks, interviews, and tests.
Out of the 25 students completing both the training and evaluation, there were 15 undergraduate (11 females and 4 male) and 10 graduate students (9 females and 1 male)
On a scale of 1 to 5 (where 1 = poor and 5 = excellent), 16 participants rated the appropriateness and quality of this training as “Excellent”
When asked if the training changed their perspective/attitude about entering public health, 20 out of the 25 participants responded in the affirmative.
It is recommended that the students participating in this pilot project be monitored/tracked over the next 2-5 years.

A tracking questionnaire has been developed and will be sent to participants to see if they follow through and enroll in a public health degree program and/or pursue a career in public health.
It is concluded from the limited data collected in this pilot project, that utilizing TRAIN as a mechanism to introduce students to the field of public health has proven to be one such measure that may potentially have an impact on increasing the number minorities who enter a career in public health.
Questions?

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Need for Minorities in Public Health
The following personal financial relationships with commercial interests relevant to this presentation existed during the past 12 months:

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Objectives

• Explain the importance of increasing the number of minorities in public health careers

• Describe how utilizing online training can serve as a motivator in increasing the number of minorities who are introduced to the field of public health

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• Minority populations are not well represented in the health workforce
  • access to a health profession remains unequal

• Cultural competency

• Public health messages
PHF/FAMU implemented a pilot project designed to increase the number of minority undergraduate students who pursue a career in public health.

- Recruited students to take online public health training modules.

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Goals

• Increase awareness/interest in Public Health

• Help undergraduate students access, use, and benefit from public health training

• Increase number of minorities pursuing a career in public health workforce
Using Online Trainings as a Motivator

- Online Training
  - Computer - major tool for teaching and learning
  - TRAIN - a unique web-based learning system

- Exposure/Interest in Public Health

- Education
  - Public health knowledge
  - Public health careers

https://www.train.org
• **Convenience**
  - FREE online public health training modules
  - Easy access
    - Internet
    - 24/7 accessibility
  - Different modules
    - Overview/Introduction to Public Health
    - In-depth/Detailed information about public health
    - Interactive

https://www.train.org
Incentives for Participation

- Benefits of Public Health Training
- Jump Drives
- Internship Opportunities
- Closing Ceremony
- Certificate of Completion

https://www.train.org
PHF - FAMU - CDC

Certificate of Appreciation presented to

Anderia Johnson

for participation in the

Minority Outreach Pilot Project

increasing the number of minorities who pursue a career in public health

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https://www.train.org
Conclusion

• Increasing the number of minorities in public health careers is important

• From this pilot initiative it appears that online training is a successful way to increase the number of minorities who are introduced to the field of public health
Questions?

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Contributing to a Diverse Public Health Workforce: A Model for Recruiting Minorities to Public Health Careers
Cynthia M. Harris, Ph.D., DABT

The following personal financial relationships with commercial interests relevant to this presentation existed during the past 12 months:

No Relationships to Disclose
This session will...

- Demonstrate how TRAIN is an effective mechanism for introducing minority undergraduate students to potential careers in public health.

- Describe how this Minority Outreach Initiative will serve as a model for other academic institutions seeking to increase the number of minority students who will potentially pursue a career in public health.

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The Public Health Foundation (PHF) was awarded a grant to work with one college or university with a minority population that has a division/school/institute/program in a health related field and to develop an outreach plan and marketing materials for undergraduate students that are aimed at increasing the number of minority students who pursue a career in public health. Florida A & M University (FAMU), a prominent HBCU, has a Institute of Public Health, which houses a Master of Public Health and Doctor of Public Health degree program, as well as other health related schools and colleges, and serves to benefit by collaborating on this initiative.
What is FAMU?

Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) is an 1890 land-grant institution dedicated to the advancement of knowledge, resolution of complex issues and the empowerment of citizens and communities.

The University provides a student-centered environment consistent with its core values. The faculty is committed to educating students at the undergraduate, graduate, doctoral and professional levels, preparing graduates to apply their knowledge, critical thinking skills and creativity in their service to society.
What is the IPH at FAMU?

Florida A&M Institute of Public Health

MISSION: The mission of the Institute of Public Health and the Doctorate of Public Health and Master of Public Health Degree programs is to improve the health status of the poor and underserved through graduate training, research and service.

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To provide quality graduate education and training in public health;

To advance knowledge of the cultural competencies required to decrease high risk behaviors and to promote healthy behavior choices;

To conduct research that provides an evidence base of improving the health of those who bear a disproportionate burden to disease;
• To encourage effective health promotion and disease prevention measures through proactive community outreach efforts statewide; and

• To contribute to the development of effective public health policy for Florida’s poor and underserved populations.
The Collaboration

By collaborating with PHF on this initiative, FAMU (faculty, staff and students):

- Served as a model for other academic institutions seeking to increase the number of minority students who will potentially pursue a career in public health;
- Can track recruitment success;
- Benefited by having access to thousands of public health trainings already on TRAIN; and
- Were provided training and opportunities to post FAMU authored trainings on TRAIN.

https://www.train.org
Implementing the Initiative

• Hired a Student Intern
• Provided TRAIN Training
• Selected Introductory Public Health Trainings on TRAIN
• Determined Measurable Outcomes
• Flyer
• Incentives
• Emails
• Meetings with FAMU Schools and Departments
• The Launch
More Than Equal to the Task

- Exceeded the number of students that were needed to participate in this pilot project (25 undergraduate students to sign up on TRAIN to participate in this initiative and 15 undergraduate students to complete the training and the evaluation)

- Expanded the project to include Master’s Level Students

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Developed an Evaluation
The Evaluation

Name: 
Gender: 
Age: 
Area of Study/Declared Major: 
Academic Year: 

1. Which training did you complete? (Please select one)
   a. What is Public Health, Course ID# 1010190 (Midwest Center for Life-Long Learning in Public Health)
   b. Orientation to Public Health, Course ID# 1000614 (New York-New Jersey Public Health Training Center)

2. How was the quality and appropriateness of the training you are evaluating? Please rate on a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 = poor and 5 = excellent.

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3. List three (3) things you learned about public health from the training.

4. Did this training change your perspective/attitude about entering public health? If YES, how did it change your perspective/attitude? If NO, what could potentially change your perspective/attitude?

5. What is the relevancy of these trainings to your career goals?
The Celebration

- Closing Exercises
- Verbal Evaluation
- Party Time

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• CDC provided funded to replicate this initiative in 5 additional schools with minority populations to include: Hispanic/Latino, Asian/Pacific Islanders, American Indian and African American

• Utilize TRAIN to track the FAMU students that participated in the pilot project

https://www.train.org
You can help by providing us with contact information for faculty in these schools who would potentially like to participate in the replication of this study.
Questions?
Contact Information

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https://www.train.org
Thank You!

https://www.train.org