Greenhouse of Hope
Cultivating Youth for Social Justice at Rust College
Session Overview

• Describe the Greenhouse of Hope framework & Rust College

• Describe Rust College’s youth leadership programs

• Consider dynamics related Rust College’s programs
  • Youth engagement for social justice
  • Community-campus partnerships
  • Social science & humanities foci in social justice programming design, implementation & evaluation

• Q&A
Greenhouse of Hope

- Genuinely embrace the gifts of youth and young adults
- Cultivate young leaders who want to change the world
- How social science and humanities inform youth engagement programming

cc: Beyond Documentary - https://www.flickr.com/photos/47173165@N02
Rust College
Connecting Faith with Purpose for Social Justice
Rust College

- Historically Black, coeducational Liberal Arts College founded in 1866 by the Methodist Episcopal Church
- Currently supported by the United Methodist Church
- Academically prepares students in the humanities, social and behavioral sciences, natural sciences, business, technology and education.
Rust College Health Explorers Program: A Greenhouse for Youth Health Equity Leaders
Why a Health Explorers Program?

- 25% of U.S. college graduates are from underrepresented ethnic groups
- Health professions are the 3rd most popular U.S. college majors; yet historic lack of diversity in health
- Underrepresented students turn off from health/science before entering college

Growing our own health professionals in Mississippi!
Holly Springs Schools’ HS graduation rate is higher than Marshall County and the State.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Year</th>
<th>Marshall County School District</th>
<th>Holly Springs School District</th>
<th>Mississippi</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013-2014</td>
<td>77.3%</td>
<td>80.0%</td>
<td>74.5%</td>
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- Designated HS focuses on health career exploration
  - Holly Springs Career and Technical Center
Holly Springs (Marshall County) is a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) with increasing health disparities.

Underrepresented students from HPSAs often return to serve as health professionals in their own communities.
Holly Springs high school students have questions about health careers...
and Rust College is pointing them in the right direction to pursue health careers.
Health Explorers Program Intents

- Increase HS students’ exposure to health career options & encourage HS graduation
- Excite underserved students about health careers
- Create a “community of health leaders” through learning & mentoring from health researchers, health professionals and other students
Health Explorers
Program Partners

United Way of the MidSouth

Holly Springs School District
Superintendent’s Office

The Honorable Mayor of Holly Springs

Holly Springs Rotary Club

University of Memphis

Byhalia Family Health Center

Master of Public Health Program
College of Health Sciences

Alliance Healthcare System & Foundation
Health Explorer Program Design

- **HEP Club**
  - Bi-monthly half-day sessions focused on specific health careers, health professional Q&As and learning activities

- **24 hours of instructional contact from faculty & college near-peers**
  (March - June 2015; Jan-April 2016)

- **Offering Saturday club & in-school sessions for 2016-2017**

Don’t just watch a Doc, become a Doctor too!
Session Topics include:

- Leadership & Goal Setting
- Behavioral Science
- Health Communication
- Health Disparities & Health Inequity
- Epidemiology & Surveillance
- Medical Ethics
While our scholars represent some of the most underserved in rural Mississippi...
80% of participants’ parents did not complete high school (2014-2015 cohort)
Our scholars also represent those with the greatest promise to succeed...
100% of participants want to pursue health careers (2014-2015 cohort)
HEP is showing Holly Springs high school students there is a world of health career possibilities waiting for them. See for yourself ....
Rust College Health Explorers Program

- Capitalizing on 150 years of educating students, Rust College is investing in Holly Springs’ high school students.

- Working with partners, HEP is “growing” future health professionals right at home in Mississippi.

Making Health Happen in Holly Springs School District!
Rust College
A Greenhouse of Hope for 150 years
References


Questions?