

COLLEGE OF Nursing
SUMMER RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES
FOR UNDERGRADUATE WOMEN

APPLICATION DEADLINE: March 2, 2015

The Department of Nursing is pleased to offer the following research project for the summer of 2015. Interested students are urged to contact the faculty member(s) directing the project that most interests them. By contacting the faculty member, you can discover more about the project, learn what your responsibilities will be and, if possible, develop a timetable for the twelve-week research period.

Educational Interventions to Increase Access and Retention
for Underrepresented Students in Health Professions
Programs

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Project Description

Disparities in healthcare are rampant across the United States. The annual health disparities and quality reports by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality show that racial/ethnic minorities, Appalachian, Medicaid and uninsured individuals experience disparities in their healthcare. This is troubling considering that 37.4% of individuals (118 million people) in the U.S. are of an underrepresented race or ethnicity, while 15.4% (48.7 million) are living below poverty (U.S. Census Bureau). Healthcare providers are essential and critical to healthcare in this country, but demographically they do not represent their clients, the patient. For example, the registered nurse workforce is overwhelmingly female (>90%) and only 19% are minorities (American Association of Colleges of Nursing).

As a result, of the workforce disparity, health professions schools have been developing interventions aimed to increase the access to and retention in health professions degree programs. The University of Cincinnati College of Nursing has embarked on two types of interventions to address this issue: a summer bridge residential program for entering undergraduate nursing students, and a health professions summer camp for middle school students. While many health professions schools offer similar interventions, there is little published evidence on the effectiveness of the programming. This project will examine the different elements of the

summer bridge and summer camp interventions and determine the relative impact of each element on access to education and success in college.

Specifically, the WISE undergraduate student will work in collaboration with a multidisciplinary research team to:

- 1) Design instruments to assess the impact of a health professions summer camp experience on middle school student's knowledge of health professions careers and access to college.
- 2) Collect and analyze data from the summer camp intervention.
- 3) Collect and analyze pre- and post-survey data for nursing and pre-med students who participate in a summer bridge residential program.