CSUN-SFV Center to Reduce Health Disparities

Information

The goal of the proposed CSUN-San Fernando Valley (SFV) Center to Reduce Health Disparities is to develop a research center to reduce health disparities for vulnerable populations from several disciplinary and methodological perspectives. The Center will serve three areas of emphasis: (a) **faculty support** – to train CSUN faculty from many disciplines, primarily Psychology, along with community activists, to conduct culturally competent, relevant, and valid research with underserved populations and to disseminate that information to the academe, to the lay public, and to policy-makers, (b) **student support** – to develop workplace diversity by developing a cadre of undergraduate and graduate students who have been traditionally underrepresented in health disparities research by providing coursework, training, research experiences, and resources to enter and succeed in graduate programs, and (c) **ecologically valid health disparities research and dissemination** – to develop a center for excellence in ecologically valid research that will explore alliances between university researchers and community organizations, schools, and other institutions to ensure greater ecological validity in health-related research and community research. The CSUN-SFV Center to Reduce Health Disparities will serve as a hub for future collaborative work that supports health disparities researchers by developing EcoLab, a modifiable laboratory that can be made into environments that are representative of a home with kitchen and living room to study family interactions and to conduct interviews, focus groups, and community meetings; a restaurant to study eating behaviors; or a medical examination room to study health care issues such as communication, expectations, and stereotyping.

Opportunities

- Future subproject grants for 2 years at $100,000 per year
- EcoLab
- Networking and collaboration through monthly meetings
- On-campus training – January and May (17-21 or 24-28)
  - Overview of health disparities, culturally sensitive research related to health
  - Grant-writing
  - Structural equation modeling (and HLM or MTMM, other models)
  - Ethnography and The Ethnograph
  - Program evaluation
  - Communication with media, lay public, policy-makers
- Off-campus training – up to 6 trips/year @ $2200 for travel and training
  - ICPSR
  - Pre-conference or post-conference institutes, specialized training in your area
- RIMI student assistance and stipend
- Course reassignment for course development or modification
  - Develop a course on demographics and epidemiology of health and health disparities, interdisciplinary research perspective with an emphasis on ecological validity
  - Develop a course on research methods and pertinent questions for reducing health disparities
  - Revise a course relevant to RIMI students to take that relates to health disparities
- Mentoring from world-class mentors like Tom Weisner, Adriana Umaña-Taylor, and Robin DiMatteo
- Community forum – working with community agencies to learn from them and help them as data consultants
- Colloquia
- Brown bags
- Technical support
- Clerical support
- Statistical support (Andrew Ainsworth)