

Abstract Title: BCPS Health Careers Pipeline Program

Authors: Jean Nagelkerk, Ph.D., FNP; Kimberly Carter; Al Shifflett III, Matthew Bozzo, Sara Burtis, Gabrielle Poeder

Did the activity you are submitting target learners from two or more health professions? Yes

Background: In May of 2019, Grand Valley State University (GVSU) entered in to a partnership with W.K. Kellogg Foundation (WKKF) and Battle Creek Public Schools (BCPS) to assist BCPS in their educational transformation journey. GVSU initiated 12 collaborative projects that supports the BCPS district wide educational innovation.

The BCPS Health Careers Pipeline Program's goal is to provide health and educational career awareness and exploration for BCPS students from middle through high school. The program offers multiple different opportunities for students to engage in and build upon over their educational path. The Health Careers Pipeline Program, was designed and implemented using an interprofessional team of faculty and staff. The Pipeline Program includes student programming in: STEM middle school curriculum, summer camps focusing on careers in health, STEM, and education, dual-enrollment courses in health and education, a career exploration fair, and a GVSU/BCPS Pipeline Scholarship Program.

Actions, Methods, or Intervention: Through the WKKF, BCPS and GVSU partnership, students have an opportunity to engage in the BCPS Health Career Pipeline Program through middle and high school curriculum and hands-on programming. Those who choose an emphasis in health, STEM or education also have the opportunity to apply for the GVSU/BCPS Pipeline Scholarship Program.

The BCPS Pipeline Scholars are matched with faculty mentors based on their program interests, and each support scholars in growing their campus network. The BCROC Career Navigator and Special Projects Coordinator also have continued advising, advocating, engaging with scholars on campus at GVSU, and hosted monthly engagement opportunities with the Pipeline Scholars. Staff have regular check-ins with scholars who may need additional support. Scholars have reported the individualized support is invaluable.

Results: The BCPS Health Careers Pipeline Program facilitated exploration of health and educational careers for students. From this program, six BCPS Pipeline Scholars were admitted to GVSU in 2020. In 2021, 10 new scholars were admitted and enrolled at GVSU. Each of the six scholars who entered GVSU in Fall 2020 successfully completed their first academic year, and returned for their sophomore year in Fall 2021. Total number of BCPS Scholars attending GVSU to-date: 16

Lessons Learned: The BCPS Health Careers Pipeline Program is a mechanism for students to explore health and education careers. Students share that this program has provided the opportunity to explore multiple careers and has assisted them in selecting a program pathway. The BCPS Pipeline Scholarship Program offers individualized support for students' success. Through consistent touch points and connections made with the scholars, staff from the GVSU Battle Creek Regional Outreach Center (BCROC) found that more individualized support and resources were required to help ensure the scholars' success. BCROC, therefore, developed and coordinated a comprehensive support plan for scholars that include regular engagements and check-ins, and arrangements with faculty mentors.

Future Application and Next Steps: The Pipeline Scholarship Program has been a great opportunity for students to learn about multiple health professions and engage in simulated learning. To provide individualized supports for the Pipeline Scholars, an on-campus Career Navigator position has been approved and will be implemented Winter 2022 semester. The Career Navigator will be able to provide personalized support for the scholars through regular and consistent advising, programming, and engagements. The Career Navigator will also assist with BCPS summer camps at GVSU and work with academic departments and success programs and scholars to provide the opportunity for internship experiences in the Battle Creek area.