Building Nursing Faculty Capacity in the U.S. Affiliated Pacific Islands

Friends of the College of the Marshall Islands Foundation, Inc.

The Pacific PIN partnership sought to address the faculty development needs of nursing education programs in the six United States Affiliated Pacific Islands (USAPI) jurisdictions – The U.S. Territories of Guam and American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia. Their project’s goal was to develop and implement instructional projects to strengthen nursing’s working relationships across the Pacific nations; develop, implement, and evaluate communication technologies; foster resource sharing strategies; and promote cultural sensitivity.

Successes

- Established a well-functioning **nursing educator network** in the region.
- Nursing leaders in the network **communicate weekly** over the Internet.
- **Experiential leadership activities** were provided to all nurse leaders in the network.
- Purchased pediatric and adult simulation mannequins for several of the colleges. Nursing faculty were trained to develop case scenarios.
- **Developed a documentary** about nurses in the USAPI and the issues they face.

Lessons Learned

- A **charismatic and engaging key leader** with knowledge and skills is needed to help create a common vision between all participants.
- **Regular communication** helps to move a project forward.
- A **willingness to leave one’s comfort zone** can lead to great partnerships.
- **Cost-analysis and data-driven training** for the key participants is important in order to strengthen their ability to talk about nursing issues to funders and health administrators.
- The few existing nursing faculty have **many urgent demands** which take priority over network activities.

Matching Funds

In addition to the $250,000 grant awarded to the Friends of College of the Marshall Islands by Partners Investing in Nursing’s Future, eight funding partners contributed $136,000 dollars to the project.

Key Partners

- American Pacific Nursing Leaders Council
- Bank of Guam
- CMI AHEC
- College of the Marshall Islands
- Pacific Islands Health Officers Association
- Tripler Army Medical Center
- University of Guam
- University of Hawai‘i/Manoa
- USAPI schools of nursing
- U.S. Public Health Service
- World Health Organization