

Health Care: On Campus, in the Community

UIndy Expands Efforts With Master's Degree

As health care issues continue to dominate, the roles of doctors and other health professionals are growing and evolving. At the University of Indianapolis (UIndy), health disparities take center stage and are a leading concentration of a new initiative.

Shannon McMorrow, Ph.D., interim director of UIndy's new Master of Public Health (MPH) program, identifies that the degree recognizes the challenges in global health.

"We have developed a program dedicated to training public health professionals to examine, understand and design solutions to health disparities which are the avoidable, unfair differences we see in health status and health care across different populations," McMorrow explains.

UIndy is taking further steps to expand the Master of Public Health program, including a new Health Pavilion to open in August. McMorrow says this will help students gain even more experience in the health industry.

The 160,000-square-foot Health Pavilion will be a major addition to the University of Indianapolis campus.



"Students already have a lot of connection with communities and health care through our different health science programs, but the new Health Pavilion will increase those opportunities," she shares. "Master of Public Health students, physical therapy students, nursing and several others will have ample opportunities to build meaningful skills as they complete their degree."

UIndy's program is tailored to help health professionals come back to school. The curriculum work is predominately online, with three intensive weekends on campus during the two-year experience.

McMorrow earned her MPH degree in 2004 and has since worked as a program manager for a nonprofit in California and as a consultant for a non-governmental organization (NGO) in Uganda.

"An MPH is incredibly versatile. It allows you to advance to higher levels of responsibility and pay across multiple sectors, including the for-profit health care sector, all levels of government, the non-profit and social services sector or an international NGO," McMorrow contends.

Projected industry growth, and challenges, necessitates programs like UIndy's.

"The role of public health has not changed, but policies such as the Affordable Care Act and public health outbreaks such as the measles, Ebola and the current HIV outbreak in Southern Indiana all push the incredible importance of public health into the spotlight," she emphasizes. "The need for a well-trained public health workforce has always been present in the U.S., as well as globally."

RESOURCE: University of Indianapolis Master of Public Health at www.uindy.edu/health-sciences/mph

Doctors Go to School for New MBA

There is no doubt that health care is big business. In August, the first physician graduates of a new Indiana University Kelley School of Business program will add highly-valued skills to their profession.

Susannah Gawor, director of graduate business programs for Kelley, says the Business of Medicine MBA represents a growing need for physicians and other health professionals to work across industries.

"The Business of Medicine MBA was started to develop physician leaders with the tools and skills necessary to navigate the complexities and uncertainties of the future of the health care industry," Gawor explains. "The program has a unique curriculum taught by faculty experts in the health care industry that focuses on the intersection of business and medicine and what physicians need to know to improve patient care while making it affordable and serving in leadership positions across the industry."

Anthony Cox, chair of the Business of Medicine MBA program, offers that as health care continues to change, physicians need programs like this now more than ever.

"There's a huge benefit," Cox says. "Health care organizations have really evolved. Now, an increasing number of physicians, rather than being sole practitioners or partners, are employees of huge health systems."

Physicians who lack a business background, Cox adds, may be missing out on the administrative side of health care. The Business of Medicine MBA program aims to remedy this.

"There is sometimes tension between the administration of hospitals and physicians," he claims. "Sometimes they don't speak the same language."

Students in the program currently represent 11 different states. There is an online focus, but also an in-residence component for one weekend every month.



The Business of Medicine MBA program is housed in newly-constructed classroom space in Hine Hall on the IUPUI campus.

By Lauren Burdick

These weekends include intensive learning, networking and social events.

According to Gawor, the new program attracts well-established people in the medical field. The average student in the program is 48 years old and has 18 years of post-residency experience.

“Interest is incredibly high,” she elaborates. “Our first two classes were filled to capacity, and we have many more physicians planning to join the program in the next several years. We are the first program of our type to focus a curriculum on the intersection of business and medicine with a focus on leading change, and the interest is very high as a result.”

Cox says that both students and educators look forward to seeing where the Business of Medicine MBA program goes in the future.

“It’s been a great experience for the students and the faculty,” he surmises. “It’s been some of the most fun I’ve ever had teaching. There’s nothing better than having a group of students who are hungry to learn.”



Kelley School of Business Dean Idalene Kesner delivers a lecture to students in the Business of Medicine MBA program during a monthly residency session in Indianapolis.

RESOURCE: Indiana University Kelley School of Business, Business in Medicine MBA, at kelley.iupui.edu/physician-mba

Indiana Libraries Put Health Programming on the Map

Indiana’s colleges and universities are not the only ones revamping what health care means. For libraries, across the state and nation, health care programming is a way to reach out to their communities and spread important health information.

Melody Gault, director of the Franklin County Public Library District, says that she strives to do just that with the district’s Women’s Day of Health, which provides 40 free mammograms from a regional hospital.

“I have had many women thank us for doing the program,” Gault offers. “They get time to speak one-on-one with the doctors who attend and other health care providers.”

Gault adds that all health programs serve an important purpose.

“There have been several who didn’t know until that mammogram that they had a lump,” she recalls. “One woman in particular was sent directly to a doctor because of a mass found. So it doesn’t matter if only one person shows up for a program or we have a whole room full.”

Shelley Kreuger, marketing manager and adult programming director at Bell Memorial Public Library in Mentone, says much of her focus for the library is in personal fitness as small communities may have fewer opportunities for group exercise classes.

“I had always wanted to see a fitness program in our area as the closest fitness center was in Warsaw, a 20-minute drive from Mentone,” she states. “My conversations with a local resident who worked at the Warsaw YMCA brought about the start of

Adams County residents take advantage of Tai Chi classes hosted by the local library.



our Zumba and PiYo classes.”

The local library now has 16 to 25 attendees for their various classes every week.

Kelly Ehinger, director of the Adams Public Library System, also prioritizes physical fitness when planning library programming. The library hosts Tai Chi in Storybrook Park every summer. It also partners with the community of Decatur for Winning with Wellness, which promotes library resources such as cookbooks for a variety of diets and health-related concerns.

Ehinger reports that the Adams Public

Library System offers monthly vaccinations and provides resources for the Affordable Care Act by training its staff in ACA marketplace registrations.

Gault believes that libraries’ roles are much larger than they used to be, and health care is just one piece of the puzzle. “The library is more than books now,” she reiterates. “We have to have all sorts of services for our patrons. We help with unemployment, job searches, resume writing, proctoring tests, tutoring and more. We are a full service place.”

RESOURCES: Franklin County Public Library District at fclibraries.org | Bell Memorial Public Library at www.bell.lib.in.us/home.aspx | Adams Public Library System at www.apls.lib.in.us