



Interprofessional Education Collaborative
Connecting health professions for better care

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IPEC Announces Inaugural USPHS Award Winner and Finalists Recognized for Excellence in Interprofessional Education

One national winner and five honorable mentions will receive recognition

The U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) and the Interprofessional Education Collaborative (IPEC) are pleased to announce the University of Central Florida (UCF) as the recipient of the inaugural Public Health Excellence in Interprofessional Education Collaboration Award. A joint effort between the USPHS and IPEC, the Excellence in Interprofessional Education Collaboration Award is presented to a team of health professional students and/or faculty, whose interdisciplinary work has significantly impacted the community they serve. USPHS and IPEC applaud UCF's interprofessional teams from the schools of medicine, nursing, social work, physical therapy, and pharmacy that collaborated with the Farmworkers Association to provide free clinics for uninsured farmworker families.

USPHS and IPEC received many impressive applications from around the country and awarded the top honor to the UCF project addressing population health focused on the care of farmworkers, which exemplified excellence in interprofessional collaboration, community integration, and service to medically-underserved populations. UCF project members will be recognized by the IPEC Council on June 7, 2017, at the headquarters of the Association of American Medical Colleges in Washington, DC.

"Public health starts with education," emphasizes Rear Admiral Pamela M. Schweitzer, Pharm.D., BCACP, Chief Professional Officer of Pharmacy, U.S. Public Health Service. "To build a strong community health infrastructure, we must continue to learn collaboratively and serve collectively. In doing so, we can effectively promote and advance the health of our Nation."

In addition to an overall winner, USPHS and IPEC also recognize an honorable mention winner in five categories. A complete list of the winners follows:

2017 USPHS IPEC Inaugural Award: Overall Winner

University of Central Florida from Orlando, FL

Harnessing the Strength of Inter-Professional Teams to Provide Comprehensive Care for the Farmworkers of Apopka, Florida

Judith S. Simms-Cendan, M.D., College of Medicine, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology

Heather Peralta, DHSc, MSN, RN, College of Nursing

Priya K. Patel, BS, College of Medicine (MedPACT)

Alexander Diaz, BS, College of Medicine (MedPACT)

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2017 USPHS IPEC Honorable Mention: Health Communications and Health Technology

Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine from Lakewood Ranch, FL

Community Paramedicine

Victoria Reinhartz, Pharm.D., School of Pharmacy

James Crutchfield, NREMT-P, CCEMT-P, CCHW, Manatee County Public Safety Department

David Nonell, M.D., Manatee County Emergency Medical Services

Melissa Larkin-Skinner, MBA, LMHC, Centerstone of Florida

2017 USPHS IPEC Honorable Mention: Behavioral Health

University of Alabama at Birmingham from Birmingham, AL

Bridging the Gap: Caring for Birmingham's Most Vulnerable Populations

Cynthia S. Selleck, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, School of Nursing

Maria R. Shirey, Ph.D., MBA, RN, NEA-BC, ANEF, FACHE, FAAN, School of Nursing

2017 USPHS IPEC Honorable Mention: Public Health Infrastructure

Massachusetts General Hospital Institute of Health Professions from Charleston, MA

Crimson Care Collaborative: An Interprofessional Academic-Practice Partnership

Patricia A. Reidy, DNP, FNP-BC, School of Nursing

Marya J. Cohen, M.D., MPH, Harvard Medical School

2017 USPHS IPEC Honorable Mention: Community Empowerment and Education

East Tennessee State University from Johnson City, TN

East Tennessee State University Prescription Drug Abuse and Misuse Working Group

Robert P. Pack, Ph.D., M.P.H, School of Public Health

Nicholas Hagemeyer, PharmD, Ph.D., Gatton College of Pharmacy

Fred Tudiver, MD, College of Family Medicine

Angela Hagaman, MA, LPCA, College of Public Health

2017 USPHS IPEC Honorable Mention: At Risk and Vulnerable Communities

University of Alabama at Birmingham from Birmingham, AL

Increasing Access to Healthcare Services through an Interprofessional, Student-Led, Health Education and Medical Screening Program for Homeless Men in Birmingham Alabama

James R. Kilgore, Ph.D., PA-C, School of Health Professions

Kimberly Meadows Clark, Firehouse Ministries

Doug Kovash, Firehouse Ministries

J.M. Trimm, Ph.D, School of Health Professions

Award nominations submitted by interprofessional teams were evaluated by their contribution to public health promotion through multidisciplinary collaboration among health professionals and the community. These partnerships are the cornerstone of accessible, safe, impactful, high quality community healthcare and demonstrate IPEC's vision for team-based, community-oriented practice.

"Interprofessional health care practice is achievable and it works," says Richard W. Valachovic, D.M.D., M.P.H., President of IPEC and President and CEO of the American Dental Education Association. "We applaud the students and faculty of the University of Central Florida, and all of the nominees, for showing that if we educate health professionals together, patients and the entire health care system benefit."

For more details about the award winners and upcoming 2018 application cycle, visit IPEC's [website](#).