RHCHP Center for Service Learning **2013-2014 Intercultural Immersion Programs**

Intercultural Immersion Programs allow students in the Rueckert-Hartman College for Health Professions to immerse themselves in cultures different from their own, thereby gaining a better understanding of cultural differences. These experiences highlight the importance of cultural competence in health care fields and allow students to address important issues at the intersection of health care, culture, and poverty in domestic and international settings.

During these immersion opportunities, students develop their capacity to listen and learn from people whose voices are often not heard. As a result, students grow in solidarity and come to see society as an integrated, diverse whole. When students see the relational nature of justice, they will hopefully become positive change agents for a more just society, dedicating themselves to an ethic of service to their fellow human beings. Thus, the goal of intercultural immersion is not simply to experience and gain a deeper understanding of the voices of the marginalized in society, but rather to learn about inequitable systems and gain the tools through which the structures of society can be challenged and changed. For all of these experiences, there are pre-immersion learning sessions and ample opportunity for analysis and reflection.

Denver-Fort Morgan Immigrant/Refugee Health Immersion

Dates:

Saturday, October 12th - Tuesday, October 15th, 2013

Programs Offered to:

Nursing (Traditional, MSN/DPT, RN-BSN, CHOICE), DPT and HSA Students

Summary/Goals:

This program is intended to provide a shorter-term, low-cost option for students to explore critical issues of health and social justice in the immigrant and refugee communities of urban Denver and rural Fort Morgan. Students will interact with nonprofits and health service providers who work with these populations and will have the opportunity to participate in home-stays with immigrant and refugee families. The program will give students deeper insights and understanding of the challenges faced by these communities and their role in addressing these issues. Students will also learn about the rich culture, values and perspectives immigrants and refugees bring to enhance our local communities.



Mountains to Mountains: An Intercultural Immersion to the Central Appalachian Region

Dates:

Saturday, December 7th - Sunday, December 15th, 2013 (Subject to Slight Change)

Programs Offered to:

December Trip - Nursing (Accelerated) and HSA Students

Summary/Goals:

Regis University, in partnership with the Appalachian Institute of Wheeling Jesuit University, provides students with a cultural immersion and service experience in one of the poorest socio-economic regions in the United States. This immersion seeks to expose students to long standing issues related to the physical and mental health of Appalachian residents. Students will learn about how the history, environment, culture, and politics have combined to create disparities which cross state boundaries in the region.

Mexico Intercultural Service Immersion

Dates:

This program is temporarily suspended due to State Department Travel Warning.

Programs Offered to:

Nursing (Traditional), DPT (1st and 2nd Year), Pharmacy (1st and 2nd Year), and HSA Students

Summary/Goals:

For most of the past twenty three years, Regis participants have spent their spring breaks in Nueva Rosita, Mexico engaging in community service projects such as the building of a community center in the rural community of Rancho Nuevo and providing interactive health and wellness education in schools and the community. This immersion provides students with the opportunity to research and live an experience that will allow them to better understand the reasons behind some of the health disparities in Mexico and on a global level, while developing awareness and respect for cultural and socioeconomic differences. The program encourages students to increase their understanding and become critically conscious of the divide between the economically well off and impoverished countries of the world.



Nicaragua Intercultural Immersion

Dates:

Saturday, March 1st - Sunday, March 9th, 2014

Programs Offered to:

Nursing (Traditional), DPT (1st and 2nd Year), Pharmacy (1st and 2nd Year), and HSA Students

Summary/Goals:



This experience is designed for students from a variety of health disciplines.

Participants explore and discuss the intersections of poverty and health in

Nicaragua and consider their role in affecting positive change in the developing

world and in their own communities. Participants are exposed to a broad and
diverse cross-section of Nicaraguan society and have the opportunity to explore

the many factors that determine the health of individuals and communities.

Students meet with health care workers, government officials and local activists

who are working to improve the state of health of the Nicaraguan people.

Ethiopia Intercultural Service Immersion

Dates:

Friday, March 15th - Sunday, March 30th, 2014 / DPT and Possibly Pharmacy Stay until April 12th

Programs Offered to:

DPT, MSN, Pharmacy, and HSA Students

Summary/Goals:

This immersion offers a balanced academic and experiential learning program that explores core global health concepts and population based healthcare for the marginalized and underserved. Students take a one or three credit Global Health elective in the fall semester in preparation for the immersion trip to Ethiopia the following spring. In partnership with local organizations, Regis University students engage in various activities to improve health, strengthen the community, and further their health care related skills and knowledge.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE IMMERSION TRIPS PLEASE VISIT:

HTTP://WWW.REGIS.EDU/RHCHPSERVICELEARNING