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The School of Health and Medical Sciences (SHMS) at Seton Hall University has awarded more than $45,000 in grant funding to four organizations through its Clinical Education and Research Partnership Grants program. The recipients—Children’s Specialized Hospital in Mountainside; P.G. Chambers School in Cedar Knolls; The Phoenix Center, Inc. in Nutley; and Riverbend Heart and Health Care, Inc. in North Arlington and Old Bridge—will use the funds for six projects that meet the grant program’s mission to support innovative and evidence-based programs and services, promote clinical research, and enhance programs in the allied health professions.

Graduate students in SHMS professional programs—athletic training, occupational therapy, physical therapy, physician assistant and speech-language pathology—will also benefit from learning and training experiences at the grant-funded organizations, as all four are clinical affiliates of SHMS and host SHMS students on clinical rotation.

“Our School’s mission to educate the healthcare leaders of tomorrow grows hand-in-hand with our commitment to building strong community partnerships and improving healthcare to the fullest of all,” said SHMS Dean Brian B. Shulman, PhD. “These identifiable relationships are the foundation of our School’s hands-on clinical education model, which health sciences students want and need in order to be successful in their fields.”

P.G. Chambers School received the grant to support its project titled “Innovative Applications of Red Cord Using Collaborative Learning,” which will help determine whether a commercially available neuromuscular activation system widely used in physical rehabilitation programs for adults, can be effective with disabled children as well. P.G. Chambers School’s project, “Changing Learning Outcomes for Children with Cortical Visual Impairment,” will develop educational strategies tailored to individual students with the condition, which significantly affects learning abilities. The Phoenix Center’s “Shark Project” involves the installation of a Snowroom Zone, which is a contextualized, adaptive learning environment that the Center hopes will help its students who exhibit self-limiting and developmentally disabling behaviors.

“Sports Medicine Concussion Management and Injury Prevention Program,” the initiative of the Children’s Specialized Hospital, is a project, which is supported by the Riverbend Heart and Health Care Foundation.

RBBȻ intends to utilize the SHMS grant to launch a community outreach program to provide healthcare services, particularly for people or organizations that are having difficulty in accessing medical services or education.

The recipients applied for the SHMS grants through a Request for Proposals (RFP) process that began in Spring 2003. SHMS received more than 30 grant applications, which were evaluated by the School’s Director of Clinical Education, Committee, and the Office of the Dean.

In accord with SHMS’ focus on interprofessional education, the desirable attributes of applicants included the ability to develop learning experiences for students representing a majority of the health sciences programs offered at SHMS, and the demonstration of an interprofessional approach in the provision of services.

“Collaboration across professions offers a valuable healthcare environment where clinical decision-making is a team approach,” said Dean Shulman. “As educators, it is our role to create experiences that develop students’ interprofessional abilities, thus supporting a patient-centered approach to practice.”

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Kee ne State College is now a College Partner in the “I’m First” program, which is an online community sponsored by the Center for Student Opportunity that supports students who are first in their families to attend college.

“I’m First” recruits college students with average SAT or ACT scores that are not supported by traditional methods of supporting first-generation students and is a part of a larger initiative. The College received the “I’m First” program to support students who are first in their families to attend college.

“Students are the future of this world,” said Dr. Anne Hoag, Kee ne State College President. “At Kee ne State College, we believe that if a student is prepared to work hard and has the aptitude for real academic challenge, they deserve the opportunity to earn the way they feel they will best serve them. In many cases, that means providing extra campus support for students whose family may be navigating the process of completing college for the first time. We are absolutely committed to helping these families.”

More about the “I’m First” program can be found online at www.imfirst.org.

At Kee ne State College, students challenge assumptions as they learn to change the world.