



# Lessons Learned: Interprofessional Initiatives at a Research Intensive University

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## Working Together for Better Health

### Center for Health Sciences Interprofessional Education

- Experts in interprofessional collaboration, competency and communication
- Catalyst and resource for interprofessional initiatives to seven health science schools, Information School
- Essential to promoting health of individuals and the public by advancing interprofessional collaboration



[www.interprofessional.washington.edu](http://www.interprofessional.washington.edu)



### Successes 1997-2004

- 1000+ student participants
- Interprofessional education in required & elective curricula
- Student-initiated extra-curricular activities sustained
- Center as catalyst and coordinator - internal and external initiatives
- Generated funding for new initiatives

### Lessons Learned

- Commitment and involvement by multiple stakeholders from grassroots to administration in health science, information schools & library
- Financing in manner equivalent to research grants essential
- Institutional readiness influenced by the political and social climate and needs
  - health care financing, population health needs, wider interdisciplinary efforts
  - Curricular reform in some schools (e.g. Medicine, Pharmacy)
- Interprofessional competency linked to accreditation
- Diversity of initiatives essential, including partnering with community agencies
  - Menu format essential - no one curriculum model fits all schools
  - Easier to develop in pre-clinical & classroom
  - Web and in-person curriculum to work around scheduling, distance issues

### Challenges

- Physical and cultural infrastructures remain barriers.
- Faculty reward structures mitigate against extensive interprofessional course development.
- Center control of opportunities diminishes as students enter the clinical phase of training
- Funding for future initiatives is uncertain.

**Nonetheless, the community of practice that has been established promises to sustain these initiatives.**

### Future Directions

- Marketing of the Center and Center initiatives
- Dissemination through publications and presentations
- Secure funding stability
- Continue to integrate interprofessional competencies and capabilities in curriculums of health science and information schools
- Develop and evaluate interprofessional health sciences certification examination
- Expand the breadth and depth of community partners

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