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**Program for Rural Interdisciplinary Training**  
**2002-2005**

**Objective #1:** Expand the Minnesota Rural Health School's core disciplines to include dental students in interdisciplinary educational activities and University of Minnesota School of Dentistry faculty in collaborative MRHS planning and educational activities.

- At least 12 dentistry students will participate in MRHS education sessions and will indicate an increased awareness of the role of other disciplines following interdisciplinary curricular activities.
- The experience will strengthen dental student interest in seeking employment in a rural community.
- Dental school faculty will participate in MRHS governance and curriculum functions.

**Objective #2:** Develop, implement and evaluate a community-based rural interdisciplinary geriatric fellowship program to expand geriatric care in rural communities.

- A curricular sub-committee of MRHS faculty will be formed to develop a two to three week fellowship for fifteen students to teach an interdisciplinary team approach to geriatric care in two MRHS communities.
- The curriculum will encourage students to practice geriatrics in rural, interdisciplinary, community settings.

**Objective #3:** Develop community faculty educational programs to promote an interdisciplinary model for clinical practice consistent with the Minnesota Rural Health School vision.

- Surveys will be conducted to determine the barriers to utilizing interdisciplinary teams in rural clinical practice and solutions that have developed to enhance interdisciplinary team care.
- Existing MRHS community teams that model effective interdisciplinary care in practice will be identified.
- Educational sessions will be presented to encourage formation of interdisciplinary teams in MRHS communities.

**Objective #4:** Increase the number of minority students and faculty involved with the Minnesota Rural Health School program to improve cultural awareness.

- The MRHS will expose its students to the strong minority faculty presence in the program's associated academic institutions, especially American Indian faculty, by arranging retreat presentations and encouraging interdisciplinary case study participation by these faculty members.
- The majority of participating MRHS students will increase their awareness of cultural competence specific to American Indian health issues and health care delivery.
- A long-term goal will be attempting to increase both the number of minority enrollees and the number of minority program completers through increased MRHS visibility to minority students.

**Objective #5:** Conduct interdisciplinary research relevant to rural Minnesota health practitioners and communities.

- The new project activities will be analyzed to determine how successfully they integrate into the existing program.
- The community impact and long-term value of the service-learning projects will be assessed.
- Community-based interdisciplinary clinical research will be conducted.