The Arizona Nexus
Teamwork and Collaboration for a Healthier Arizona

MAY 2015 - NOVEMBER 2017
Outcomes

- 46 abstracts and presentations
- 11 new partnerships formed
- 4 peer-reviewed publications and book chapters

Project Impact

- Over 2,000 national center pioneer funds to AZ nexus projects
- Over 7,000 in new award funding
- 9 new grants and funding requests awarded
- Over 2,000 students involved
- Over 4,000 patients/clients served
Mission The Arizona Nexus is committed to advancing interprofessional practice, education, and research to improve individual and population health, accessibility, affordability and the experience of healthcare locally, in Arizona and nationally.

Current Projects

Interprofessional by Design: Meeting at the Crossroads to Accelerate Interprofessional Practice and Leadership

PIs: Liz Harrell & Karen J. Saewert

This project is a nurse-led initiative which leverages expertise and collaboration among nursing, social work, physical and occupational therapy students and faculty from Arizona State University and Northern Arizona University, community-based partners, non-traditional professions including design and the arts, the Arizona Action Coalition (AZAC), and ASU’s interprofessional center to: (1) increase access to prevention, health promotion, and transitional care for a highly vulnerable population of individuals recovering from substance use disorders in residential care in Phoenix, Arizona through collaboration with a community-based clinical partner, The Crossroads, Inc.; and (2) provide interprofessional leadership training to accelerate student readiness for transition to team-based community practices and to contribute to improving health, the experience, and value of health care (Triple Aim). This work is made possible in part by the National Center’s Accelerating Grant Initiative.
**Goal**

To build collaborative partnerships in order to accelerate and sustain interprofessional practice, education and research among Arizona Nexus members and members of the Nexus Innovations Network of the National Center for Interprofessional Practice and Education.

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**The Macy Project**  PI: Gerri Lamb

The objective of this project is to implement and evaluate an integrated primary care curriculum across four health professions programs in two state universities in Arizona. The Project Partners in this grant are the DNP and MSW programs at Arizona State University and the MD and PharmD programs at the University of Arizona – Phoenix. We collaborated with the Arizona Graduate Nursing Education Initiative (Dr. Melanie Brewer, PI) to assist with interprofessional clinical placements and received funding from them to develop distance education modules on teamwork and collaboration in primary care.

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**Student Health Outreach for Wellness (SHOW)**  PI: Liz Harrell

SHOW is a student-run clinic serving the health and social needs of vulnerable populations in the local Phoenix community. Students and faculty from multiple health and non-health professions across Arizona’s three state universities have come together to increase access to care and services for vulnerable and underserved homeless individuals. SHOW includes education and experience in collaborative practice. Students are guided by faculty and supervised by qualified clinical preceptors.

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**Improving Health Outcomes in Independent Senior Housing** through an Interprofessional Health and Social Service Center  PI: Robin Bonifas

The Collaboratory on Central, formerly known as The Interprofessional Center for Health and Social Services at the Westward Ho is a student-run, faculty-supervised training unit that provides onsite supportive services to 300 residents of a low income senior housing community in downtown Phoenix (the Westward Ho). Through participation in service learning experiences, students build skills in interprofessional collaboration as well as skills in their individual discipline, while increasing access to health and psychosocial care for housing community residents, the majority who are underserved older adults living with chronic illness and disability.
Interprofessional Education Community of Practice: Connecting IPE Training to Collaborative Practice in Community Health Settings  

PI: Lise McCoy

With the goal of improving health care outcomes, this intervention supports collaborative practice in community-based primary care clinics that serve underserved populations. In Phase 1 of the project, an interdisciplinary group of preceptors will complete the IPE Faculty Development: Train-the Trainer CoP program, and develop lesson plans. In Phase 2, these preceptors will supervise students who are part of interprofessional teams at El Rio Community Health Center and HealthPoint Community. In Phase 3, the effects of these collaborative practice efforts will be assessed. The intervention thereby creates a nexus between ATSU-SOMA and the community clinics.

Community Health Mentor Program  

PI: Oaklee Rogers

The “Community Health Mentor Program” (CHMP) reflects the alignment of health professions education where the students learn from their assigned community health mentor who has a chronic disease and/or disability about their experience as a patient within the healthcare system and their community, as well as their role within an interprofessional team. The students meet with their assigned mentor eight times over the course of the one year. This project collectively forms a ‘nexus’ partnership between two state academic institutions, interprofessional student teams, and a defined population of residential community-based consumers of healthcare.
Please direct any inquiries to the appropriate contact listed above. Thank you for your interest in the Arizona Nexus. Thank you to the members of the Arizona Nexus for their contributions to this pamphlet. And a special thank you to Michael Moramarco for his dedication to the future of the Arizona Nexus and for compiling the data for this pamphlet.