

Project AHEAD ASIAN HEALTH EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT

What is Project AHEAD?

Project Asian Health Education And Development is an 8-week long summer program designed to provide training and experience for college students who have an interest in pursuing a career in the health care field. The program consists of a field placement, seminars and workshops, and participation in the development and completion of a community health project. Students will be exposed to various health careers, and gain an understanding of the history and dynamics of the New York Asian American community and of current health issues impacting the health status of Asian Americans in the United States.

Students who are interested in nursing, dentistry, mental health, and social work are encouraged to apply.

Field placements offer the students practical experience by working with health professionals. Emphasis is placed on learning and understanding the multi-faceted health care delivery system,

rather than on acquiring professional technical knowledge.

Seminars and workshops address many topics ranging from Asian American awareness to health care delivery in minority communities.

A community health project gives students the opportunity to incorporate their interests and ideas into Project AHEAD by creating, developing and implementing a team project that addresses the health needs of the Asian American community.

The goals of Project AHEAD are:

- To increase students' interest in and awareness of the special needs, problems, and strengths of Asian American communities
- To encourage students to enter health and allied health professions, especially in areas of community need
- To motivate students to practice within Asian American communities upon completion of their professional training
- To provide first hand experience in health care delivery
- To help students develop a

better understanding of themselves as individuals and as important contributing members of minority communities

Since 1975, Project AHEAD has been part of the Charles B. Wang Community Health Center's on-going efforts to provide excellent and culturally competent health care through preventive medicine, health education, and community involvement. Project AHEAD is one of the few health career opportunity programs in the United States based in an Asian American community and sponsored by a community health center.

More than 400 students have been trained through Project AHEAD, which has been successful in training students who later return to serve the community as health care professionals. Many full time physicians, dentists, and public health officials at the Health Center and at other local hospitals and clinics are Project AHEAD alumni who are now contributing to the growing need in the Asian community. ■

Applications can be found online at www.cbwchc.org.

Applications must be postmarked by February 20, 2009.

Call 212.379.6988 for further information.

Important Dates
 Postmark deadline: **02/20/09**
 Interviews: **3/9-13/09**
 Notification: **3/27/09**

**8 weeks of Project AHEAD
 June 22 to August 14, 2009**

About the Charles B. Wang Community Health Center, Inc.

The Charles B. Wang Community Health Center (formerly known as the Chinatown Health Clinic) is a leading provider of comprehensive health care for Chinese-speaking immigrants in the New York City metropolitan area. Since its founding in 1971, the Center's annual patient population has grown tremendously. Last year, its bilingual physicians and dentists served more than 130,000 patient visits.

The Center's community outreach efforts reached another 10,000 health care

consumers through workshops in garment factories, schools, senior citizen centers, community organizations, and health fairs. On a monthly basis, more than 5,000 bilingual health pamphlets are distributed. Chinese radio programs are broadcasted several times a week on various health topics and wellness promotion. The Center recently opened two extension sites in Queens and Manhattan in order to serve the burgeoning Asian American population. Major initiatives

on tobacco control, diabetes, cardiovascular health education, cancer education and screening, and mental health continue to make the Center a leader in meeting the community's health care needs. The Charles B. Wang Community Health Center, affiliated with NYU Medical Center and NYU Downtown Hospital, is an essential link between community residents and other health care institutions. The Center's reputation for quality health care keeps it in the forefront of health care services in the community. ■