Spotlight on CATCH: Coordinated Approach to Child Health

Since 2007, the CRHSSD, through funding from the HRSA-ORPH Delta States Network Grant, has worked toward the implementation of Coordinated School Health Education in the Illinois Delta Region. The Illinois CATCH on to Health! Consortium (ICHC) applies a planned, systematic, and coordinated school-based approach to behavioral and environmental change to improve children’s nutrition and physical activity.

To address these needs, the ICHC selected the Coordinated Approach to Child Health (CATCH) as the primary change strategy and decided to focus its nutrition and physical activity project on elementary school children in the Illinois Delta Region. CATCH builds an alliance of children, parents, teachers, and school staff to teach skills and behaviors associated with maintaining healthy lifestyles. CATCH coordinates four components, which are listed below, targeting both children’s behaviors and the school’s environment. These components include:

1.) Classroom Curricula
2.) Food Service Modifications
3.) Physical Education Changes
4.) Family Involvement

The addition of U of I Extension as a partner adds a health-focused youth camping opportunity utilizing an experiential learning method of positive youth development. In partnership with Carbondale Park District, ICHC will incorporate a health aspect to all summer programs in 2011. This new summer camp partnership will be designed to promote health, wellness, integrity, and learning with the goal of assisting youth to live a more active and healthy lifestyle.

For more information, contact Jeff Franklin at jfranklin@rural.siu.edu. Also, visit our website at www.CatchOntoHealth.siuc.edu

Two-Day EMS Training Seminar
March 11 - 12, 2011
8 AM - 5 PM

Presented by the Rural Medical Transportation Network
Co-sponsored by Entrepreneurship and Business Development
To register, please go to http://www.SiRides.com
or you may contact Nathan Wambold nwambold@biz.siu.edu
Goodbye and Good Luck, Shinji!

Shinji Ogita, a graduate student in Kinesiology, came to the CRHSSD in 2008 as a graduate assistant. His expertise in physical activity was a great foundation for his subsequent training in providing SOFIT observations, a measurement of children’s physical activity level. SOFITS are utilized in the CATCH program as an evaluation measure.

From that meager beginning, Shinji’s contribution grew as he integrated himself as a critical team member who has played a valuable research role in numerous Center projects. After two and a half years working as a graduate assistant and extra help staff, Shinji completed his Master’s in Kinesiology in December and will be moving on to bigger and better opportunities. Wherever his expertise may take him, Seattle or Japan, we want to thank him sincerely for his work ethic, humor, and expert knowledge, all of which have advanced our mission and added value to our lives. Thank you, Shinji, for your hard work and good luck in all your future endeavors!!

CRHSSD Welcomes Five New Students

The CRHSSD is proud to introduce our diverse group of graduate assistants currently working on various projects.

Matthew R. Bice, Doctoral Student
Matthew has a Master’s in Science from The University of Texas. His duties include working on the CATCH on to Health! project by teaching and implementing program policies. He is currently completing his PhD in Health Education.

Jenna Jamieson, Graduate Assistant
Jenna is currently working on her Master’s in Public Health at SIUC. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Financial Economics. She previously worked at the Entrepreneurship Center in the Office of Economic and Regional Development. She currently supports the Rural Medical Transportation Network in finding solutions for patients in accessing regional health providers.

Latrice Jernigan, Demuzio Intern
Latrice is a Vince Demuzio Intern splitting her time between the CRHSSD and Entrepreneurship and Business Development, both of which are within the Office of Economic and Regional Development. She will be completing her Bachelor’s degree in Social Work in May 2011. Latrice is assisting with continuing education events for social service providers sponsored by CRHSSD and all aspects of the Rural Medical Transportation Network.

Alex Ramsey, Doctoral Student
Alex received his Master’s in Applied Psychology and is now a PhD student. His training has focused on research design, data analysis, and program evaluation, particularly involving stress management and health promotion programs. Alex is currently working with the CATCH on to Health! Project, the Patient-Centered Medical Home Pilot, and the Rural Medical Transportation Network.

Nathan Wambold, Graduate Assistant
Nathan Wambold earned his Bachelor’s of Science Degree in Architectural Studies from SIUC in 2000. In 2008, he attained his license in architecture in the State of Illinois. He is now in his last semester of graduate school earning his Master’s of Science Degree in Professional Media & Media Management, with an emphasis in photography. Nathan joined the CRHSSD team in January of this year as a graduate assistant to assist with the Rural Medical Transportation Network program.