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INSTITUTION

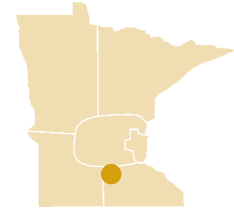
PROJECT/REQUEST

LOCATION

**Minnesota State  
University,  
Mankato**  
Mankato

Center for Family  
Health Promotion

\$2,500,000



**Project at a Glance**

- Provide a significant contribution toward improved health for rural and immigrant populations in Minnesota and create a model for addressing these issues nationally
- Prepare individuals for careers, leadership roles and advanced study in health promotion

**Project Description**

The College of Allied Health and Nursing at Minnesota State University, Mankato is dedicated to providing the highest quality education through a curriculum that includes interdisciplinary education, culturally diverse experiences and community-based multicultural experiences in settings that serve the underserved. This project will expand and integrate community-based learning into the existing allied health curriculum while increasing desperately needed outreach services to rural and immigrant families in south-central Minnesota.

Through its successful outreach in Madelia, the Center for Family Health Promotion has established relationships with many

leaders of the Latino community in that area. Work will be undertaken to identify and evaluate barriers to expanding health promotion programs to other communities in south-central Minnesota to serve the health needs of increasing immigrant populations. In addition, efforts will be made to promote first-generation college admission into allied health programs to promote an educated work force of immigrants to serve other immigrants.

Increased immigrant populations in the region have created unique health challenges. Residents of the area tend to be in poorer health and to be underinsured for health care at higher rates than residents in urban communities of Minnesota. Health care providers and services are limited, resulting in the region performing below national goals for Healthy People 2010 in many categories including access to primary care, preventive care, dental care and health information.

The university, together with its partners, will establish a center to provide underserved and disadvantaged populations



*Community-based learning will be integrated into the existing health care curriculum to increase outreach to families in south-central Minnesota.*

with access to education, job training, career services and health information in the allied health domains. A 24-hour health and information network will be developed and implemented. The center will provide allied health professionals and programs in

nursing, dental hygiene, dietetics and nutrition, community health, exercise science, cardiac rehabilitation, recreational therapy, audiology and rehabilitation counseling to provide access to health promotion for immigrant populations.

Components of the center will include:

- Health professions education – The center will provide access to courses in allied health and nursing in collaboration with its partners. Allied health professionals throughout south-central Minnesota will have access to programs otherwise offered only on-site at Minnesota State University, Mankato.
- Recruitment and retention – The center will provide curriculum and training for K-12 health careers programming. The project will reach out to underserved, minority and immigrant populations to recruit them into allied health professions programs.
- Allied health readiness and professional development – High demand in the allied health workforce sector is attracting many to health professions programs, including displaced workers, people seeking better careers and health professionals advancing their careers. The center will provide flexible educational opportunities in partnership with workforce centers and health care providers.

## Outcomes

Benefits of the South Central Minnesota Center for Family Health Promotion will include improved health assessment and services related to identified health problems of the region. It will increase access to health information and health promotion for residents and improve recruitment and retention of allied health and nursing students in the rural area. The center will improve the overall health of the region by providing a significant resource for appropriate health promotion services through access to professionals and materials.

## Participating Institution:

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## Project Contact:

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## Project Advocates:

- Normandale Community College
- Health Care Education-Industry Partnership
- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- Minnesota Department of Health
- UCare Minnesota
- Health Partners
- Region Nine Development Commission
- Twin Cities Healthy Starts
- Minnesota International Health Volunteers
- Multicultural Health Care Network
- Neighborhood Health Care Network



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