



Minnesota  
STATE COLLEGES  
& UNIVERSITIES

DISTRICT 1

PROJECT/REQUEST

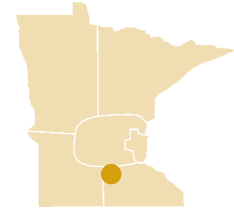
LOCATION

## Minnesota State University, Mankato

Mankato

Center for Family  
Health Promotion

\$1,500,000



### 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 needs of rural and immigrant populations. This project will expand and integrate community-based learning into the existing allied health and nursing curriculum while increasing desperately needed outreach services to rural and immigrant families in south-central Minnesota.

Work will be undertaken to identify and evaluate barriers to expanding health promotion programs to

communities in south-central Minnesota to serve the health needs of rural and immigrant populations. In addition, efforts will be made to promote first-generation college admission into allied health programs and nursing to promote an educated work force of immigrants.

Increased immigrant populations in the region have created unique health care challenges. Rural and immigrant populations tend to be either uninsured or underinsured and as a result tend to be in poorer health than residents in urban Minnesota. Health care providers and services are limited for rural and immigrant populations, 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 rural and immigrant populations with access to education, job training, career services and health information in the allied health domains. A health and information network will be



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

developed and implemented to provide access to health promotion for rural and immigrant populations in alcohol and drug counseling, dental hygiene, dietetics and nutrition, family life and child education, community health, exercise science, cardiac

rehabilitation, therapeutic recreation, communication disorders, rehabilitation counseling and nursing.

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 rural and immigrant populations to recruit them into allied health profession programs and nursing.
- Allied health readiness and professional development – the center will provide flexible educational opportunities in partnership with workforce centers and health care providers to displaced workers, people seeking better careers, and health professionals advancing their careers.

## Outcomes

Benefits of the 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 rural and immigrant residents and improve recruitment and retention of allied health and nursing students. The center will improve the region's overall health 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:

- Health Care Education-Industry Partnership
- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota
- Minnesota Department of Health
- UCare Minnesota
- Health Partners
- Open Door Health Center
- YWCA of Mankato
- South Central College
- South Central Service Cooperative



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