

CHHS April 2009 Newsletter

WKU'S KPHA Student Chapter Wins 1ST Place at State Conference

The Kentucky Public Health Association had its yearly conference at Louisville. The Faculty and students of the Public Health Department made their mark at this event. The team of 32 students, graduate and undergraduate, and 5 faculty members was headed by the Department Head, Dr. Gary English, and Dr. Cecilia Watkins, faculty advisor for KPHA.



The conference was well attended by the schools and colleges of Public Health and the Health Departments of Kentucky. Students from WKU had 3 oral presentations in total. It was also noteworthy that 8 out of 11 posters presented were by WKU students. The KPHA student chapter at WKU won first place over all Kentucky universities for their work in public health during 2008-2009.

The conference provided the students with a platform to interact with their peers at other schools and also to meet the Public Health workforce in the state. Among the key speakers was Lt Gov. Daniel Mongirado, who gave an impressive speech about the need for Public Health in the current economic crisis. The students provided a booth with information for any students wishing to learn more about Public Health programs at Western Kentucky University. The conference presented an opportunity for students to network in the field and also to promote health programs at WKU.



School of Nursing Receives NORA Partnering Award

The National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA) Partnering Award for Worker Health and Safety honors groups who have demonstrated exemplary teamwork, innovative thinking, and strong science in their collaborative partnerships on occupational health and safety research. This award was given to partnership groups that best demonstrate successful high impact partnerships in conducting occupational safety and health research. WKU's School of Nursing, along with 28 other Schools of Nursing, received this award for their participation as a partner on a study to evaluate the effectiveness of implementing a safe patient handling and movement curriculum in schools of nursing. The ARJO ceiling lift in the nursing lab was donated as a result of WKU's participation in this study. Dr. Crista Briggs, who participated in the study in 2004-

2005, received the plaque that notes WKU's participation, which she has placed on her office wall. "I am so glad I was able to be a part of this national research study and that the results were so positive!" Dr. Briggs stated in an email. The award was announced at the annual NIOSH NORA Symposium in Denver, Colorado on July 29, 2008. To read more about the award, please visit:

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/nora/symp08/award08.html>

ACE Lab Gets a Makeover

The WKU Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) Lab in the College of Health and Human Services has undergone a makeover!

During the 2009 Spring Break week, the ACE Lab was renovated and now provides more space, having added room for 4 new computers. ACE, located in the Academic Complex, room 411, is a student success center specifically for the College of Health and Human Services. ACE provides academic advising, free tutoring, technology assistance, and various developmental programming.



ACE Lab Before



ACE Lab After



New rows of long tables



New ACE Lab Assistant Desk

28 Speech Teachers Earn National Credentials

The long-distance learning program at WKU graduated 28 city speech teachers in January. The program, designed to help those who would like to earn a master's degree while still working full-time, takes 2 ½ years to complete and leads to a master's degree and national certification in speech-language pathology.

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It's beginning to look a lot like UFT University. Actually, it's a direct path to a master's degree and national certification in speech-language pathology.

Sponsored by the UFT's Teacher Center, graduates earn their degree through a long-distance learning program at Western Kentucky University, and it comes just in time to help combat a shortage of certified speech pathologists in New York City schools.

Twenty-eight city speech teachers graduated from the program in a formal commencement held at UFT headquarters in January. The ceremony was led jointly by the United Federation of Teachers and Western Kentucky University officers.

Each graduate spoke during the commencement, and many honored their family, friends, and spouses who supported them through the arduous program.

Dr. John Bonaguro, Dean of the College of Health & Human Services at Western Kentucky, encouraged the graduates to "be the change you want to see in the world."

Virginia Hill, who heads the UFT Teacher Center speech pathology certification program, noted it is the only one in the country that offers all courses in the evenings, and clinical externships at school sites, rehabilitation centers, hospitals, and nursing facilities in the evenings, weekends and summers. "Everything is geared to accommodate the working professional," Hill said.

Many of the graduates noted the convenience and the necessity in these economic times, of being able to continue working full-time while earning a master's degree and certification in American speech-language-hearing.