

Interactive Strategies

Interactive Strategies, a continuing feature of *Metropolitan Universities*, will present brief descriptions of interesting, innovative activities unique to metropolitan universities. This may include curricular innovations, imaginative initiatives for minority recruitment, or new ways of evaluating faculty activities. Interactive Strategies will also carry descriptions of new linkages between metropolitan universities and their many constituencies. Examples of linkages may come from a variety of areas, such as economic development, school improvement, policy analysis, and cultural activities. The editors of *Metropolitan Universities* seek to feature strategies that are original and creative and are likely to be adaptable to other metropolitan universities. They may be found in traditional departments, interdisciplinary centers, and administrative offices. We welcome ideas and examples from which colleagues in other metropolitan universities can learn new ways of addressing their needs and challenges.

In this initial column, we are featuring three diverse strategies, to demonstrate various types of interactions that occur through metropolitan universities. One striking example is BLUEPRINT 2000, an \$8.9 million dollar, long-term plan for the economic future of Wichita/Sedgwick County, Kansas. BLUEPRINT 2000 includes plans for: downtown revitalization, a positive Wichita image, advanced technology transfer, better transportation systems, a business/education compact, small business support systems, a biomedical research institute, Wichita State University Centers of Excellence, and the Wichita/Sedgwick (WI/SE) Partnership for economic development. The WI/SE Partnership for Growth was formed to establish economic development policy for the area, oversee its implementation, and coordinate all economic development activity. The thirteen-member WI/SE Partnership includes corporate leaders, elected officials of the city, county, and chamber of commerce, and the

president of Wichita State University. Wichita State University was cited in BLUEPRINT 2000 for its innovative Center for Productivity Enhancement, a Center for Entrepreneurship, and the Institute for Aviation Research, which placed Wichita State University in a central role for area economic development. The Institute for Aviation Research supports the aviation industry of the Wichita metropolitan area and the nation through multidisciplinary research, technology transfer, professional training, and undergraduate and graduate science and engineering education.

For further information on BLUEPRINT 2000 or the Institute for Aviation Research, contact: Warren B. Armstrong, President, Wichita State University, Wichita, KS 67208-1595.

The Urban Health Program of the University of Illinois at Chicago offers an innovative approach to the recruitment, retention, and graduation of minority health care professions students. Started in 1969 as the Minority Opportunity Program, the Urban Health Program has received national recognition and is widely admired as a model for success in the training of minority health care professionals. The University of Illinois at Chicago ranks number one among public medical schools in the U.S. in the size of first-year black and Hispanic enrollments and first among public medical schools in the number of black and Hispanic graduates. The Urban Health Program is massive, combining resources of the state, university, and surrounding communities. One facet of the program is the Early Outreach Program, designed to expand the pool of minority applicants qualified and eligible for college and careers in health professions. Early Outreach includes student links with role models and mentors, the Saturday College for talented minority students, and information and

counseling to prepare parents to support and encourage the students' academic and career endeavors. The Urban Health Program includes all areas of health care professions and is inventive in its approach and structure.

For further information on this program, contact: William D. Wallace, Executive Director for Urban Health, The University of Illinois at Chicago, 414 Administration Building, 1737 West Polk Street, Chicago, IL 60612.

The University of Southern Maine is home to a unique, multidisciplinary institute dedicated to improving health and human services through research and program evaluation, policy analysis, technical assistance, and training. Since its founding in 1972, the Human Services Development Institute, a unit of the University of Southern Maine's graduate program in Public Policy and Management, has successfully conducted collaborative research and development programs responsive to the needs of decision makers in government and private agencies. The Institute has marshalled the knowledge and expertise of the university to identify and solve policy and management problems related to the organization, financing, delivery, and effectiveness of health care and human services. The Institute has expansive experience in the fields of health care, child welfare, social services, aging, substance abuse, mental health, and developmental disabilities.

The institute staff consists of thirty full-time research associates and assistants, plus twelve classified staff. The multidisciplinary backgrounds and expertise of this group, combined with other university faculty, represent a significant resource for addressing the

complex policy and management problems in health and human services, that increasingly cut across several domains of disciplinary and professional knowledge.

The Human Services Development Institute conducts funded research, training, and demonstration projects for federal departments, state agencies in Maine and other states, local agencies, and private foundations. In addition, the institute has formal research initiatives in health policy, child and family, aging, and rehabilitation.

For specific information on selected projects and the institute, contact: Andrew Coburn, Director, Human Services Development Institute, University of Southern Maine, 96 Falmouth Street, Portland, ME 04103.

Submissions for Interactive Strategies should include the following:

- a one-page abstract describing the program or activity
- a brief statement detailing the innovative or creative approaches that have been utilized
- the general amount of university financial support and/or outside grants and contracts
- the name of a contact person, along with an address and phone and fax numbers.

Supportive materials and brochures may accompany submissions.

Address all inquiries and submissions to: Karen A. White, Office of the President, Wright State University, Dayton, OH 45435. Telephone: (513) 873-3647, FAX: (513) 873-2421.

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