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Introduction

The South Carolina Public Health Preparedness Student Corps (**SCPHPSC**) is an initiative of the Clemson University Center for Research on Health Disparities (CRHD). The SCPHPSC aims to promote and expand a workforce prepared with a social mission of community resilience, public health, and health equity. PHPSC students are guided in the completion of select educational and clinical experiences that augment their baccalaureate academic curriculum during a 1-year period and allows them the opportunity to volunteer (along with other students, professionals, and laypersons) within regional Public Health Reserve Corps (PHRC). The PHRC is a program that provides an opportunity for medical, behavioral health, and non-medical volunteers to assist communities during disaster and non-emergency public health activities.

Objectives

Coordinate student engagement in successful completion of the following:

- 1. Self-paced, online, training (17 hrs.) in disaster preparedness (i.e., Medical Reserve Corps/South Carolina (SC) PHRC,* Federal Emergency Management Agency Incident Command, contact tracing, and health equity contributing factors (i.e., program management, behavioral health self-care, social determinants of health, human caring, care of marginalized populations, and global/transcultural)
- 2. Workforce development immersion activities (10 hrs.) including an advanced practice nursing care “shadowing”
 - experience within a rural/medically underserved region of SC and reflection on the leadership aims of the
 - Appalachian American Alliance of Nurse Practitioners and CRHD in relation to health equity and disaster preparedness;
- 3. One end-of-project networking conference to highlight insights gained and implications of workforce development toward community resilience.



METHODS:

An academic-community collaborative of four SC academic institutions (Benedict College, Claflin University, Francis Marion University, Coastal Carolina University), along with lead organization Clemson University, is used to recruit and support respective student participants (50 per institution, annually) through project completion within 1 year. Participants are incentivized through stipend support and encouraged to share their experiences within the project through printed reflections and scholarly presentations.

Implications

Students who complete appropriate training can play an essential role in pandemic management. Training received by the medical workforce can be applied to diverse disaster scenarios when supported with adjunct specialist training. An augmented specialist curriculum, provided by the SCPHPSC, offers benefits that include establishing, expanding, and sustaining a public health workforce pipeline and ultimately, community resilience.