

Title: Increasing Diversity Through Entry-Level Graduate Athletic Training Education

Summary of the Project

This project is to establish a consortium of accredited entry-level master's degree programs (N=4) and those in candidacy (N=10) to recruit, retain, and educate ethnically diverse athletic training students from the 116 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) across the country. Specific goals are to convene a strategic planning meeting of interested directors of the entry-level educational programs; to create a public relations web page targeting the HBCU's, with links to each of the athletic training education programs; to recruit, retain and educate students from the HBCUs; and to assess the effectiveness of the project. The project has received funding from the Ethnic Diversity Advisory Committee of the National Athletic Trainers' Association and Johnson and Johnson.

How Will This Proposal Enhance Ethnic Diversity Within The Profession?

The goal of the project is to form a partnership of interested historically black colleges and universities with the growing number of entry-level master's degree programs in athletic training. At present, four programs are accredited by the JRC-AT and CAAHEP, and another ten are in the candidacy phase of the accreditation process. The current directory of Historically Black Colleges and Universities lists 116 institutions. The entry-level master's degree programs in athletic training offer an ideal opportunity for students who have earned undergraduate degrees from non-athletic training accredited institutions to become eligible to sit for the National Athletic Trainers' Association Board of Certification (NATA BOC) examination.

The first phase of this project was to invite the program directors of the accredited and candidacy entry-level master's degree programs to meet at the NATA Annual Meeting and Clinical Symposia in St. Louis in June, 2003. The purpose of this meeting was to create a consortium of institutions interested in establishing a partnership with the historically black colleges and universities. In addition to the program directors, certified athletic trainers from three historically black colleges and universities attended the meeting, as did Chris Harmon, representing the Ethnic Diversity Advisory Council. Mr. Jack Weakley, from Johnson and Johnson, was apprised of the meeting agenda. The following individuals attended the meeting and committed to becoming involved in the project.

Luncheon Participants

Representing the Entry-Level Programs:

David Perrin, UNC-Greensboro
Margie King, Plymouth State College
Sandy Shultz, UNC-Greensboro

Jeff Bonacci, University of Arkansas
Mike Diede, Montana State University
Mary Ubinger, Seton Hall University
Paula Maxwell, SUNY-Buffalo
Don Fuller, University of Findlay
Iris Kimura, University of Hawaii
Barry Deuel, Shenandoah University
LesLeeTaylor, Texas Tech University

Representing the HBCU:

Monroe Abram, Tennessee State University
Chauncey Keith, Albany State University
Bernard James, Howard University

Representing the Funding Sources:

Chris Harman, Ethnic Diversity Advisory Committee
Jack Weakley, Johnson & Johnson

The second phase will be to identify the historically black colleges and universities that have an interest in establishing a relationship with the consortium of institutions offering entry-level programs in athletic training. Information on careers in athletic training, required pre-requisite coursework and information on consortium affiliates will be provided to HBCU institutions, with an invitation to provide a contact person with whom the consortium schools can communicate. The institutions that offer an undergraduate curriculum that meets the prerequisite requirements for admission to an entry-level master's program in athletic training are the most likely to participate.

The third phase will be to add to this web page the consortium institutions that are committed to the recruitment, retention and education of ethnically diverse athletic training students. The web page will identify the consortium institutions, summarize their admission requirements, provide an overview of each curriculum, and have a link to each institution where interested students can obtain more detailed information.

The fourth phase will be to assess the effectiveness of the project. This will be accomplished by asking the consortium institutions to provide data (# of applicants; # of offers; # of acceptances; # of denials) related to applications from the participating historically black colleges and universities. The retention rate of these students in the consortium institutions will be assessed, as will the pass/fail rate on the NATA BOC examination.

Anticipated Timeline of the Project

A three-year timeline is proposed for this project. During Year 1 the consortium of interested entry-level programs will be established, the consortium web page created,

contact made with the historically black college and universities, and student recruitment initiated. It is anticipated that students will begin to matriculate into the consortium institutions during Year 2. The effectiveness of the project will be assessed during Year 3. The following outlines the proposed timeline:

- June, 2003: Meeting of interested entry-level program directors at the NATA Annual Meeting and Clinical Symposia in St. Louis
- Fall, 2003: Creation of the consortium web page; contact established with the historically black colleges and universities
- Spring, 2004: Recruitment of students from the historically black colleges and universities begun
- June, 2004: A second meeting of the consortium program directors convened at the NATA Annual Meeting and Clinical Symposia
- Fall, 2004: First matriculation of students into the consortium institutions
- Spring, 2005: First graduates of students from the consortium institutions
- Summer, 2005: Assessment of project effectiveness

Benefits and Future Directions

The goal of this project is to increase diversity in the profession by attracting students from historically black colleges and universities to attend entry-level master's degree programs in athletic training. If this project proves successful, the potential exists for larger sources of funding, such as from the Department of Education. This funding could be used to provide financial assistance for students from the historically black colleges and universities to pursue an allied medical field such as athletic training.

For Additional Information

Inquiries and expressions of interest in becoming involved in this project may be directed to: David H. Perrin, PhD, ATC, School of Health and Human Performance, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, PO Box 26170, Greensboro, NC 27402-6170; e-mail: dhperrin@uncg.edu