COSMIC Community Leadership Curriculum

Partnership Education Action Project (PEAK)

The COSMIC Community Leadership Curriculum (CLC) is a leadership and community engagement curriculum woven into the Colorado Springs Branch longitudinal integrated clerkship. The CLC workshops teach leadership styles and skills tailored to the various venues—administrative, clinical, and civic—where physicians are expected to lead.

The Partnership Education Action Project (PEAK Project) is an experiential service-learning assignment that challenges students to apply lessons learned in the CLC to their development as a leader and their understanding of community health needs. This leadership-in-action project provides a forum for students to develop self-awareness of their leadership and communication styles, build effective leadership skills, and hone their emerging professional voice.

PEAK Teams

The PEAK Project is team-based. Teams consist of two to four medical students working collaboratively with a local organization to address a community need. Community partners include—but are not limited to—the YMCA, Therapeutic Recreation, The Resource Exchange, Urban Peak, School District 11, and the United Way.

Each PEAK team is assigned a “Community Engagement Preceptor” (CEP) who holds a leadership role in the partnering community organization. The CEP is aware of our curricular goals, timeline, and scope of the PEAK project; they aim to work closely with our medical students to collaborate on the development and implementation of a project relevant to their organization’s mission.

PEAK Assignment

Collaborate with your partner organization to develop and implement an intervention addressing a community health need.

Learning Objectives

1. Become an effective partner for collaborative action:
   - Identify methods and resources to characterize community health needs
   - Delineate organizational structures that affect decision-making
   - Create and deliver an effective message
   - Develop and implement a community development project
   - Evaluate the impact of your intervention
The PEAK Project is to be developed and implemented over the course of 11 weeks, from the start of the CLC in early January to its culmination with team presentations at the PEAK Fair on March 31st. If your project is unable to be completed in this time frame, you can apply to the CLC Director, Dr. Cassidy, for an extension; extensions will be considered if there is a clear plan and timeline for project completion. In the case of an extension, a PEAK presentation will still be expected on March 31st, with the goal of describing progress to date and anticipated outcomes.

**PEAK Guiding Principles**

Your intervention should be rooted in qualitative or quantitative data characterizing the community need you seek to address. Your community engagement preceptor can be a resource for you in understanding the data driving their organization’s mission.

While we encourage you to follow your passions and address a community need that speaks to your team, successful projects will leverage radical listening: who is already doing similar work in our community? How can you align with them and leverage one another’s efforts? What can you learn from them?

Successful projects will be SMART:

- Specific
- Measurable
- Achievable
- Realistic
- Timely

**PEAK Project Presentation Template**

Each PEAK team will have 15 minutes to present their work. The format of the presentation is up to you. Whatever your format, be sure to address the following, which can also act as a guide for your planning:

1. What is the community need you seek to address?
   - Ground your needs assessment in available qualitative or quantitative data.
2. Who is your community partner?
   - What is their mission? How do they accomplish it?
   - What is your vision?
3. Describe your intervention including, if relevant, budget and funding sources.
4. What are the outcomes of your intervention?
5. Reflections on process & sustainability
   - What unexpected obstacles did you encounter?
   - Were leadership lessons learned, particularly as related to community engagement, emotional intelligence, or conflict management?
   - What would sustainability look like for your project? Should it be grown, or is it best done once?
CLC and PEAK Project Evaluation

1. Community engagement coaching session with Dr. Cassidy
   a. PEAK teams to schedule with Dr. Cassidy prior to Feb 17
2. Completion and presentation of PEAK project for presentation on March 31st
   (See template above)
3. 360 degree evaluation from teammates and organizational preceptor
4. Leadership reflections
   a. Emotional Intelligence Reflection and Goal Setting (Linked to EI Workshop)
   b. Conflict Management Reflection and Goal Setting (Linked to Conflict Management Workshop)
5. Participation in summative focus group and/or course evaluation

For questions and concerns, please contact Dr. Heather Cassidy:
Heather.cassidy@ucdenver.edu