



New Grant Award: Behavioral Health and Workforce Education Training Program (BHWET2017)

The Health Resources and Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has awarded PSU's master's level training programs for school psychology, school counseling, and clinical mental health counseling a \$1,919,525 grant. The purpose of this Behavioral Health and Workforce Education Training Program (BHWET2017) is to encourage interdisciplinary teams to expand the behavioral health workforce in rural and medically underserved areas. This 4-year grant will allow us to improve services for individuals across the lifespan who have developed or are at risk for developing a behavioral health disorder.

We will use the funding to focus on integrated prevention and clinical intervention and treatment for at-risk youth, adults, and their families with an emphasis on meeting the needs of those who are at risk for mental illness, substance use, and suicide, and those least likely to seek continuous help. This funding will facilitate inter-professional collaboration with statewide primary care health centers, school and, community mental health centers, and law enforcement with the primary goals of closing the gap in access to behavioral health care and nurturing collaborative and safe communities. The funding will also be used to focus on New Hampshire's opioid crisis and the behavioral health needs of the prison population. The funding will also support refugee populations in NH.

The purpose of the grant is in line with the mission of the University's professional counseling and school psychology programs, which promote social justice. Two years ago PSU embarked on a groundbreaking integrated cluster model designed to facilitate inter-professional experiences for students/interns, faculty, and field supervisors. The grant is aligned with the new vision of the University, which seeks to produce leaders within interdisciplinary, integrated clusters, open labs, partnerships, and through entrepreneurial innovations and experiential learning. The core values of the University align with the goals of the grant and include informed action, collaboration and communication, leadership and engaged citizenship: local, regional, national, and global, and interdisciplinary research and scholarship.

We will provide 29 internship stipends per year (international students are not eligible) and continue to offer the PREPARE Training, the Annual Supervision Institute, and support students attending local and national conferences. Be sure to watch for announcements on your program listserv. We are looking for opportunities to create interdisciplinary internship sites.

We are fortunate to have this opportunity to engage in meaningful work to affect change in behavioral health in New Hampshire. Co-Principal Investigators for BHWET 2017 are Dr. Cindy Waltman, Dr. Robin Hausheer, and Dr. Gary Goodnough. Dr. Chris Stoddard and Dr. Mike Mariska also serve on the grant team. Sara Donahue will serve as the Grant Support Specialist. This 4-year grant will continue through August 2021. The team anticipates applying for more funding opportunities as they become available to continue the work to increase the behavioral health workforce in NH.

