Assessment of Student Attitudes and Participation in Low Income Dental Clinics

The Creighton University School of Dentistry has supported a bimonthly student-run volunteer evening dental clinic for over thirty years. This clinic is run in collaboration with the One World Community Health Center, and provides acute care for low income patients. The purpose of this project is study student participation patterns, and survey students about their experience in these clinics.

This project encompasses two parts. First, a survey of which students have participated in these clinics over the last two years. This data will be tabulated from existing participation records, and can then be analyzed for participation patterns. Second, the students will be surveyed concerning their attitudes and experiences in participating in this clinic. This survey will be developed from existing service learning evaluation instruments.

Despite the longevity of these clinics, there has previously been no analysis of these factors, though it unquestionably and integral part of the school's service learning program. This project will allow the school to evaluate the effectiveness of this service learning experience, as well as indicating changes which could enhance both student experience and participation.

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