



All Things Ignatian



Promoting Health and Strengthening Communities Through Financial Education

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Creighton's Mission states: "Creighton faculty members will conduct research to enhance teaching, to contribute to the betterment of society, and to discover new knowledge." Each of the pillars that compose this mission are uniquely addressed through a novel interprofessional collaboration between the College of Business, School of Pharmacy and Health Professions and School of Nursing. The collaboration seeks to resolve financial issues for low to moderate income households in Omaha, and in the process improve health and strengthen the community.

Men and Women for Others

The Spirit of Creighton moves us to take a role in correcting the inequities of our community. One such injustice is the economic structure of America and the barriers it places on families in our community. The Financial Hope Collaborative (FHC) was created through the College of Business Administration to identify economic barriers for low-moderate income households and to collaborate with community partners to facilitate solutions to these barriers. The Financial Success Program (FSP) developed out of the FHC and is an educational resource for single-mother families in Omaha under financial stress. The program looks to change consumer behavior, provide access to the financial mainstream and to move families toward financial stability through intensive, individualized education.



Discovering New Knowledge

Since the program's launch in 2009, eighty-one women have graduated. Over the course of the year long educational sessions, the program directors began to notice a change in the women participating. The women lost weight and reported feeling better and more confident. Out of this observation, a research initiative developed. Could better finances mean better health for these women? The College of Business partnered with the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions and the School of Nursing to determine just that. Faculty and students from the departments of Pharmacy, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Nursing created a research design and conducted the first set of baseline health assessments on program participants in Fall 2011. Women in the program will complete follow-up health assessments after one year of program participation. Blood pressure, cholesterol, blood sugar and stress related hormones are all being evaluated during these assessments. In addition, surveys are being completed to assess changes in quality of life. Results will be analyzed and reported in early 2013.

Sponsored by the Creighton University Jesuit Community, in association with the Deglman Center for Ignatian Spirituality.

Education for Justice

Participation with the Financial Success Program research allows faculty and students to experience the Jesuit Mission in action. Nursing students as well as students from the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions, through the coordination of the Office of Interprofessional Scholarship, Service, and Education, volunteer to participate at the FSP health screenings. Students are called to use their conscience, intelligence and skills to give to others. Students are able to step out of the classroom and provide health assessments and education to actual people with real need. Students are exposed to faculty displaying a basic attitude of respect for all people and are expected to display respect at the same level. Through participation and research, students begin to see how their gifts can be used to work with others towards dismantling an unjust economic structure and improving the wellbeing of those they come in contact with.

