

## DE (CENTERING)



**Dr. Maria Dolce Associate Professor at the School of Nursing and Chair of interprofessional initiatives at Bouvé College of Health Sciences, looks at CAEP**

### What is interprofessional education at Bouvé College of Health Sciences?

One of our strategic goals for Bouvé College of Health Sciences is to be the national model for interprofessional health education. Interprofessional education (IPE) occurs when students from two or more professions learn about, from and with each other to promote effective collaboration and improve health. Experiential learning is the cornerstone of effective IPE, and our distinctive programs in cooperative education, service-learning, and simulation-learning position Bouvé College at the vanguard for linking IPE to clinical practice. I am pleased to report that we are making great advances in IPE at Bouvé. Dr. Jamie Musler, Director of the Bouvé College of Health Sciences Arnold S. Goldstein Simulation Laboratories Suite, is leading interprofessional simulation experiences for students across the Schools of Health Professions, Nursing, and Pharmacy. With the recruitment of Dr. Jeanine Mount, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs, much is underway to assure that IPE is a core component of all of our undergraduate health sciences curricula. An important force in advancing IPE has been the iRISE (interprofessional Research-Innovate-Serve-Educate) initiative, a student-led interdisciplinary program that positions students as key drivers of IPE. Students across the health professions are teaming up in interprofessional ways to promote health and wellness, by organizing health fairs and other community outreach activities. I am excited to share that Bouvé College will deliver three presentations at *All Together Better Health VII*, the leading global interprofessional practice and education conference, on June 6 – 8<sup>th</sup> in Pittsburgh, PA.



### What has been the collaboration of CAEP in advancing interprofessional education?

During the 2013-2014 academic year, I have had the distinct privilege to serve as Chairperson for the Bouvé College Interprofessional Research, Education, Practice (iPREP) Committee and work with an esteemed team of colleagues committed to IPE, including Dr. Christina Lee. Representing CAEP on the Committee, Dr. Lee and her passion for advancing integrative care models continues to be a major force in shaping the future of interprofessional learning experiences for students

at Bouvé College. In the Fall '13 semester, Dr. Christina Lee and I collaborated on a team-based simulation-learning session in the interdisciplinary course, *CAEP 6220 Seminar in Health Psychology: Motivational Interviewing in a Healthcare Setting*. We developed a standardized patient case for IPE simulation. The simulation case involved a patient with an oral-systemic issue in a primary care setting. Six students representing nursing, pharmacy, education, and CAEP participated in the simulation, where they were able to apply principles of motivational interviewing. The overall feedback from the students was very positive, and they particularly valued the experience of working together as a collaborative health care team. Several students expressed their intention to integrate oral health in their future practice.

CAEP students are also involved in the iRISE initiative and have participated in community service and outreach activities. For example, students across Bouvé, including Brandon Frank from CAEP, have been engaged with dental students from Harvard School of Dental Medicine in a community outreach program to the Wampanoag Tribe of Aquinnah on Martha's Vineyard. Our monthly trips to the Vineyard offer students the opportunity to learn about and from each other, and importantly, to develop a sense of cultural humility in addressing the health needs of this unique population. During oral health clinic visits, CAEP students have the opportunity to provide culturally sensitive health information, counseling and education to promote healthy personal lifestyle behaviors.



### What perspectives do you see for our collaboration in the future?

Improving health and expanding access to care for millions of Americans will require strengthening the capacity of our health care workforce, as well as a fundamental shift in the education of future health professionals. The need exists to prepare our graduates with the competencies to provide patient-centered, team-based care and integrate all aspects of health, including behavioral and oral health, in comprehensive primary care. In 2013, we launched *Innovations in Interprofessional Oral Health*, a three-year program funded by the DentaQuest Foundation. The goal of this Program is to improve oral health across the lifespan by integrating oral health education across interdisciplinary curricula at Bouvé, and promoting oral health in primary care settings including community health centers and school-based programs. Oral diseases are highly preventable and share many common risk factors with several chronic diseases, such as poor diet, stress, poor personal hygiene, tobacco use, excessive alcohol consumption, and substance abuse. Evidence suggests that oral diseases are associated with systemic conditions, such as diabetes, obesity, and cardiovascular disease. The underlying mechanisms related to oral-systemic health are complex, with psychosocial and behavioral factors playing a major role. I see a vast window of opportunity for interprofessional collaboration with CAEP. Through appropriate education and training, behavioral health clinicians can make valuable contributions to the promotion of oral health and prevention of oral diseases. For example, behavioral health clinicians can provide counseling and education to promote healthy personal lifestyle behaviors. There also exists a need for robust research in oral health. A shared vision of achieving oral health equity presents a common ground for all health professions, and an opportunity to advance collaborative interdisciplinary research in this field.