

Oregon

5. Teamwork, training, and fun

Training doesn't have to be boring, as participants in the 2008 Oregon Public Health Workforce Development Conference learned. The conference opened with FiSH!™ This motivational video shows how the fish sellers at Seattle's Pike Place Market keep their work energetic and positive—even when it is difficult.

NWCPHP partnered with the Oregon Department of Human Services to put on this conference. Presenters came from NWCPHP faculty and the Training and Education staff of the Oregon Division of Public Health. Topics included epidemiology, leadership development, program planning and evaluation, and building effective teams. Participants were given the flexibility of taking different in-depth courses.

The Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board provided a valuable session on tribal issues and cultural understanding. This session focused on communication issues that facilitate or hinder working with tribes, tribal training needs, and information about Native humor.

"The way they designed it was fun. It showed that learning does not have to be stressful," recalls NWCPHP's Assistant Director, Luann D'Ambrosio.

Washington

6. Connecting public health organizations

The Public Health Improvement Partnership is a collaborative effort across the Washington public health community. This partnership works to guide the development of Washington's public health system based on the premise that there is a real connection between the health of public health systems and the health of communities.

The partnership is an impressive collaboration of the:

- American Indian Health Commission
- Washington State Board of Health
- Washington Health Foundation
- Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials
- Washington State Department of Health
- Washington State Public Health Association
- Northwest Center for Public Health Practice

In recent years, the partnership has produced:

- The Public Health Improvement Plan
- The Report Card for Health
- A survey, Everybody Counts: The Public Health Workforce in Washington State
- White Papers on public health financing
- A tool kit for communicating about public health (see poster made available to the public at left)
- Standards for public health in Washington State

