



TRAINING

advancing skills.
improving practice.

The Summer Institute

An NWCPHP Tradition

From its beginning, the Northwest Center for Public Health Practice (NWCPHP) has served as a bridge, allowing resources, research, and tools to be shared between academia and public health practitioners. When NWCPHP was only months old, surveys went out to local public health practitioners asking what kind of training they needed most. The results generated the list of training topics for one of NWCPHP's first services—the Summer Institute for Public Health Practice.

The Summer Institute was first held in 1991, funded by a grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Participants came for the intensive two-week program, designed to provide skills development in the basic public health disciplines for practitioners without prior formal training, as well as to update previously trained practitioners on new technologies and emerging topics. University of Washington faculty taught the courses, which covered epidemiology, environmental health, public health law, program planning and evaluation, and management and leadership.

The Summer Institute has evolved over the past 19 years to meet the needs of public health practitioners. While the

courses offered in the very first Summer Institute have largely remained staples throughout the years, NWCPHP has added courses in cultural competency, informatics, emerging infections, bioterrorism, health policy, and public health communications to address participants' interests and developments in the field. The format of the Summer Institute changed to a one-week program as it became increasingly difficult for practitioners to spend time away from work.

Participant evaluations of the Summer Institute have been overwhelmingly positive throughout its two-decade history. One participant from the 1992 session commented, "Dynamic faculty and participants – stimulating week!" Another from the 2008 session was equally enthusiastic, "Loved being here! Leaving enthused with new skills, perspective to take back to work." NWCPHP looks forward to providing positive and practical training experiences to public health practitioners in the decades to come.

“Bud Nicola, you are great — a wonderful facilitator. I will be able to utilize what we did in case studies the most. Thank you very much for a wonderful experience.”

— Registered Nurse at first Summer Institute, 1991, about faculty member and co-director Bud Nicola

Upcoming Summer Institute

The 2010 Summer Institute will take place on August 9 - 13, 2010, in Seattle, Washington. For more information please call 206.685.1130 or visit us online at:

www.nwcpHP.org/si