Abstract

This thesis project investigated the feasibility of various strategies for promoting public health instruction within the University of Alaska system. Research activities included examining the potential for introductory courses and/or undergraduate certificate and degree programs through interviews, focus groups, and an inventory of current health programs and courses. Results indicated strong support within UA and among professionals for public health instruction to be available for Alaska students, in sync with a growing national movement. Twelve issues emerged in interviews, from where potential courses might fit in existing programs, to strengthening University–practicing professionals’ partnerships, and ideas for presenting the topic. Available resources were identified to contribute to potential curriculum and/or program changes. Final recommendations included development of an educational program from certificate to Master’s degrees, creating a public health career pathway at UA; and a broad reaching workforce development plan requiring a collaborative effort between Alaska state government and UA.