

Health Building Renovation Project:
Impacting the Field of Allied Health and Changing the Way We Live, Work and Play.

Purpose of the Project

The College of Applied Sciences and Arts (CASA) at San José State University has long been recognized for its excellence in preparing both undergraduate and graduate students for work in fields related to allied health and community wellness. Leveraging cutting-edge, applied research and strong community partnerships, CASA serves as a leader in promoting evidence-based, healthy outcomes for the region and California. The college now has the opportunity to expand its interdisciplinary reach and strong tradition of community collaboration with the reconceptualization of the first two floors of the Health Building located on the southwest quadrant of campus.

The vision for the proposed renovation of this facility is to establish a dedicated space for cutting-edge student engagement, collaborative faculty research projects, and innovative community partnerships that will further establish CASA as a leader in the interdisciplinary fields of health, wellness and community engagement. Currently, the third and fourth floors of the building house the Valley Foundation School of Nursing. This initiative proposes adding several CASA units including: The Valley Foundation School of Nursing, the School of Social Work, the departments of Occupational Therapy, Health Science & Recreation, Nutrition, Food Science & Packaging, Hospitality Management, Justice Studies and the CASA Student Success Center. The goal in creating this dynamic partnership is to foster an incubator-style working environment where ideas, both big and small, can be allowed to develop and flourish. Ultimately, this synergy will advance a holistic, interdisciplinary approach to training, service and research aimed at impacting the overall health and wellness of the Silicon Valley region and beyond.

Rationale

Health and health care is the fastest growing industry in the county. Health care expenditures represent 17% of the Gross Domestic Product of the United States according to World Bank estimates, and are projected to rise to 20% in the foreseeable future. Spending at this high level indexes the scope of health care services and their sizable role in the US economy. Drivers of this great and growing financial commitment to healthcare in the United States include aging of the US population. As the population inexorably grows older, demand for health care grows correspondingly as illness becomes more common and treatment provision increases. Another driver is implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The ACA brought insurance coverage to almost 20 million formerly uninsured Americans who presently seek care for previously untreated conditions and who will seek routine care in the future, and will seek specialty care for problems that previously would have gone untreated due to an inability to pay. The ACA gives more people access to health care services and highlights the need for efficient and effective services at every level.

The Increasing demand for trained health care professionals of all types already is widely recognized. Shortages are expected to grow as health care spending, supporting provision of increasing care, grows. Given

this context, there is a need for evidence-based and interdisciplinary teaching approaches to educate workforce that is able to adapt to the quick changing environment in health care services and utilization. Job-ready students need to be able to communicate, collaborate and work effectively on interdisciplinary teams to meet the demands of a growing and highly diverse population.

Plan Summary

CASA's planned renovation for the Health Building aims to promote an interdisciplinary and innovative approach to the education, training, and research necessary to prepare health and allied health professionals to respond to the needs of today's complex health care environment. The space will include several large classrooms and conference rooms that can be utilized as interdisciplinary learning spaces and community education rooms. Areas will be dedicated to an interdisciplinary research center with a debriefing/group room and to the CASA International Experience Initiative, with a focus on global health and wellness. Existing office space will house faculty from each of the involved disciplines at close proximity to promote cross-fertilization and collaboration.

Collaborative plans include for example, Nurses, Social Workers, Occupational and Recreation Therapists coming together in the space dedicated to the CHAMP (Center for Healthy Aging in a Multicultural Populations); Nutritionists consulting with Nurses, and Occupational Therapists on Life Skills curricula for clients; Hospitality Managers sharing knowledge of event management, hospitality and customer service as it is employed in non-traditional settings such as the health-care industry and other clinical setting; and, Legal Studies experts coming together with Social Workers and Nurses to examine health and mental health conditions for youth in the criminal justice system.

Rooms on the first floor will be converted into a Student Lounge, and expansion of the CASA Student Success Center, serving as a hub for students in health and health-related majors, fostering group work and partnerships, as well as promoting close proximity and interaction with faculty and community stakeholders involved in projects on social, environmental, intellectual, and occupational health and well-being.

Of particular importance is the space that will be dedicated to state-of-the-art clinics and laboratories for several units including Nutrition, Food Science, and Packaging, Occupational Therapy, and Forensic Science. Forensic Science investigation draws from human biological sciences, a rapidly evolving body of knowledge and knowledge acquisition techniques. Biological markers and DNA identification are among many developments widely recognized --and featured in popular media-- that have advanced the science of criminal investigation. Continuing developments in these and other fields must be monitored to stay abreast of developments and to understand how they can be applied to criminal investigation and other criminal justice system applications to permit accurate, powerful enforcement of laws that in turn impact the overall wellbeing of the community. Co-location permits sharing of clinic and laboratory facilities, and facilitates communication across fields of specialization. Up-to-date methods and findings are more likely shared in a timely manner when participants are in close proximity. Informal exchange promotes stimulation of new possibilities and better assimilation of emerging findings and techniques associated with unfamiliar sources.

CASA's renovation plan of the Health Building offers the opportunity for collaborative, team-work based education, training and research combining strengths of individual units to meet today's health care challenges.

Appendix:

The Wellness model provides a useful tool to help illustrate CASA's vision for the newly refurbished space and the broad impact that our unified programs will have on the comprehensive objective of providing a collaborative, innovative, and impactful approach to allied health.

The Eight Dimensions of Wellness



Physical: KIN, NUFS, HSR, NUR

Caring for the body in order to stay healthy now and in the future; eating well and being active.

Social: JS, SW, KIN

Maintaining healthy relationships; enjoying being with others; developing strong friendships and intimate relationships; caring about others and letting others care about self.

Emotional: JS, SW, NUR, OT, HSR

Managing personal emotions in a constructive way; understanding and respecting your own feelings, values and attitudes; appreciating the feelings of others.

Occupational: All of CASA

Developing a sense of personal strengths, skills, values and interests for personal career; maintaining a balanced life between work, family, play and taking care of self.

Multicultural: NUFS, JS, HSR, SW, OT (CASA INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE which involves all of the college)

Being aware of personal cultural background and becoming knowledgeable about, respectful of, and sensitive to the culture of others.

Environmental: HSR, JS, NUFS, OT

Awareness of how personal behavior impacts the earth, as well as how the physical world impacts you; demonstrating a commitment to a healthy planet.

Spiritual: HSR

Finding purpose, value and meaning in personal life with or without organized religion.

Intellectual: JS, HSR, SW

Growing intellectually, maintaining a curiosity about all there is to learn; valuing lifelong learning and responding positively to intellectual challenges.

How Future Occupants of Health Building (HB) Contribute to Allied Health & Wellness

Nutrition, Food Science & Packaging: (Physical/Multicultural)

Activities of the Nutrition, Food Science and Packaging Department are related to the Physical and Multicultural Dimensions of the Wellness Model. The Physical Dimension involves “eating well” as part of “caring for your body in order to stay healthy now and in the future”. Studies related to nutrition and body composition, and diet and disease relate to the Physical Dimension.

Justice Studies: (Social/Emotional/Intellectual/Environmental)*Forensic Science Programs*

The program in forensic science is a collaboration between the Department of Justice Studies and the Department of Biology and the Department of Chemistry. This program educates students in the scientific techniques and legal principles necessary to work in crime labs and to serve as partners in law enforcement efforts to solve crimes. The education they receive also prepares them for careers in other aspects of scientific research, law enforcement, or judicial endeavors. The role that forensic science plays in producing more accurate justice in criminal justice, makes it a valuable contributor to community well-being. The ability to trust criminal justice systems underpins a community’s sense of justice, legitimacy of government, and individuals’ sense of personal safety and psychological security. When a community does not trust authority, the consequences are felt in multiple ways that degrade quality of life.

The Record Clearance Project

The Record Clearance Project partners undergraduate students interested in legal studies with low-income community members in pursuit of expunging their criminal records. Under attorney supervision, the students guide individuals through the necessary legal steps to expungement and helps them tell their story about how they have reformed their lives and met the conditions for expungement. The benefit of the Record Clearance Project is profound. Clients who have expunged records may participate more normally in their communities. They can find housing, employment, and other social benefits again. These improved conditions for project clients are paramount for improved spiritual, social, occupational, and mental well-being. The benefits of offender reintegration are felt across communities in the forms of, among other things, lower crime, greater employment, lower homelessness, lower poverty, greater public health, and stronger families.

Certificate in Collaborative Response to Family Violence

This certificate program integrates knowledge in the areas of family violence and collaboration to inform and improve our response to family violence and enhance innovation and effectiveness in this area. Certificate participants will

develop a strong working knowledge and awareness of family violence, dynamics, impacts and meaning of violence across disciplines, critical systems involved in responding to family violence, skills for collaboration, and critical analysis of stages and elements of effective collaboration. Family violence is a central issue in the health and well-being of communities. The effort to enhance the ways that institutional actors respond to family violence could pay dividends to affected communities. As family violence is lowered, mitigated, and addressed, communities have increased confidence in institutions, greater psychological and physical security, and an enhanced sense of justice.

Human Rights Program

The Human Rights Program provides a platform to explore the history and structure of formal human rights and international law, and contemporary human rights struggles. This program educates students about issues across the spectrum of human rights, including those affecting health. Health is a basic human right. Indeed, health is fundamental to our understanding of a life lived with dignity. With health as a core concept in the human rights agenda, the program is advancing the goals of community health advocates by educating students to understand principles that generate their desired outcomes. Understanding ways that government policies, corporate activities, and other social factors generate conditions for human rights violations empowers students to investigate and promulgate pathways that produce communities that respect human rights, and consequently, the health and well-being their citizens.

Social Work: (Social/Multicultural)

The Center for Healthy Aging of Multi-Cultural Populations (CHAMP) is a CASA initiative that is comprised of many departments in the CASA plus those from other colleges within the university. This center, which will be located in the newly renovated Health Building, provides educational and research experiences for students and faculty and delivers important services to the larger San Jose community. Several schools/departments within CASA and other colleges across campus are developing an inter-professional consortium that will provide educational and research opportunities for students and faculty in understanding and functioning within an inter-professional team approach. The plan is to develop an institute that will develop curriculum in this area, as well as acquire grants to support such educational opportunities and research agendas. The institute is also planning to offer services to the San Jose community.

Occupational Therapy: (Occupational/Multicultural/Environmental)

The Occupational Therapy Department is well positioned to contribute to the health and wellness model that will serve as the focus of the Health Building. The current plan is to move our occupational therapy faculty run clinics designed to serve adults with physical disabilities and mental health issues into the new health building. These clinics serve those who may have no other options for occupational therapy services that enhance the quality of life. The occupational therapy clinics are focused on a wide variety of health and wellness activities for all who attend the clinics. The occupational therapy clinics include remediation, rehabilitation and prevention activities to address virtually all aspects of health and wellness. This includes environmental access and the creation of healthy habits and routines.

Health Science and Recreation: (Intellectual/Spiritual/Physical/Environmental)

Our mission is to prepare innovative leaders and practitioners with knowledge, skills, and abilities to promote health and engage with, understand, and improve the environments in which we live, work and play. Our focus is communities and populations, and the people, policies, environments, resources, supports and opportunities that create the conditions for health for all.

Nursing: (Physical/Multicultural/Occupational)

The health care system can be fragmented therefore interprofessional education of these professionals is critical to positive patient and family outcomes. The School of Nursing has the state of the art simulation laboratory where students can learn the roles and responsibilities of the members of the health care team, demonstrate effective communication skills, participate in interprofessional learning activities and collaborate in interprofessional

research. The goals of interprofessional education are to improve health care communication, promote access to health care, and improve patient care.

Hospitality Management: (Social/Occupational)

The vision of the Department of Hospitality is to facilitate the personal and professional learning of students through outstanding academic and career-focused experiences. Graduates will possess the knowledge and skills to provide sound, ethical, and visionary leadership in their discipline and in the diverse communities they serve. Partnering with the linked schools and departments will create opportunities to share our knowledge of event management, hospitality and customer service as it is employed in non-traditional settings such as the health-care industry and other clinical setting.

CASA Student Success: (Intellectual/Social)

The expansion of CASA Student Success Center services to the Health Building includes academic advising and peer tutoring as well as the provision of general meeting and study space for CASA majors. The Center’s motto “meet, study, learn” incorporates many of the wellness themes exemplified by the allied health professions including social, environmental, intellectual, and occupational health. The Student Success Center space in the new Health Building will provide a warm and welcoming environment for students, faculty, and staff, and will serve to promote social and environmental health as well as facilitate multicultural interactions and exchanges. The space itself becomes a “home away from home” where students can relax in a comfortable environment between classes, find a conducive study space, and “meet up” with other students to study, work on group projects, or discuss current events. The peer tutoring program facilitates intellectual health development by teaching students to become independent learners and develop the techniques and strategies to approach challenging material positively. The advising services not only provide students information about general education courses and policies, advisors also assist students to clarify values and assess strengths and skills for identified career interests. Providing these community spaces and services outside of the classroom are important factors in helping students feel connected to each other and to the campus as well as foster their social, environmental, intellectual, and occupational health.