

History of a Health Education Fellowship Program

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ACADEMIC TRAINING specifically in public health education prior to 1943 was received by relatively few. In 1943 the two schools offering such training, Yale University and the University of Michigan, had only seven students enrolled.

A demonstration project had been started under the sponsorship of the Public Health Service in 1941 in North Carolina. Its purpose was to demonstrate what a person trained in health education could contribute to the achievement of the goals of a public health program. By 1943, this demonstration led to a proposal to train more such personnel. As a result of a request from the Public Health Service, the W. K. Kellogg Foundation made two grants totaling \$72,000 for the purpose "of increasing the number of qualified public health education personnel in the United States who could carry on the types of health education programs that had been demonstrated as being successful in North Carolina."

The steps developed to accomplish this purpose were:

1. To initiate a program for the training of public health educators in the University of North Carolina.
2. To stimulate and support programs of training then in existence at Yale University and the University of Michigan.
3. To encourage other schools of public health to establish training programs in health education.

This report, prepared 15 years after the initial grant, supplements previous summary reports of the program and describes some of the results.

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To initiate the training of public health educators at the University of North Carolina it was decided to award fellowships directly to qualified individuals for a 1-year graduate course in public health education leading to the degree of master of public health. To be eligible candidates were required to have a baccalaureate degree which included a background in the natural sciences and social sciences. Preference was given those who had shown some degree of effective participation in community undertakings and who displayed skill in and an understanding of human relations.

For the majority of candidates, the fellowships completely financed their training, paying for tuition, field training, travel, and a monthly stipend to the individual. Others were awarded partial fellowships which paid only a portion of their expenses.

Extending the Program

In its second phase, the program was extended to Yale University and the University of Michigan. The two grants provided a total of 47 fellowships, 41 completely financed and 6 partially financed. Of these, 26 went to the University of North Carolina; 11 to the University of Michigan; 10 to Yale University. All the awards were to women, inasmuch as during the war men were not exempted from military or other essential employment to study specialties such as health education.

The program of study initiated in the University of North Carolina, with progressive modifications to meet the changing demands, is still operating. It has continued to develop, offering courses at the doctorate level, and since 1946, has been extended to North Carolina College.

Recruitment, training, and placement of the candidates who had completed specialized study in public health education helped to encourage other schools of public health to establish train-

ing programs in public health education. The sequence of events is best reflected in a review of the years when students in public health education were first enrolled in other schools of public health.

1945—University of Minnesota

1946—North Carolina College

1946—University of California

1948—University of Puerto Rico

1951—Harvard University

1951—Columbia University

All these schools are still training public health educators. Consequently, since 1943 the number of academically trained health education personnel in the United States has increased. In contrast to 1943, when 7 students were enrolled in public health education training, in 1958 the enrollment in schools of public health showed a total of 130 students. In addition to the students currently in training, reports indicate that approximately 1,250 persons have received academic training at the graduate level in public health education from 1943 through 1957. This total includes students in Puerto Rico, but does not include students from foreign countries.

Several additional results are also evident. When the Kellogg funds were expended, other agencies, both voluntary and official, began to support health education training. This trend has continued; 60 percent of the students enrolled in courses of public health education for the school year 1956-57 were sponsored either by official or voluntary agencies.

Schools which now provide training at the doctorate level are the University of California, Harvard University, and the University of North Carolina.

Increasingly for the past 10 years, schools have made their courses available to students from other countries. In many instances special training has been arranged for these students, whose needs differ radically from those of Americans.

Health Leadership

Health leadership both in this country and on the international scene has come from among the candidates who studied under the Kellogg Foundation Fellowships. The positions which

the fellows currently hold reflect the impact of the fellowships that were awarded from the two grants.

For this phase of the report the graduates were asked to submit a summary of their professional activities since the completion of their health education training. The questions were open-ended; consequently, there is not complete uniformity in the responses. Nevertheless, all the data received are included in this summary.

In March 1958, data were obtained on 38 of the 47 candidates. Of the other 9, 1 is deceased, 1 entered a religious convent and no information is available as to whether she worked previously in public health, 4 persons did not respond to the letter of inquiry, and 3 could not be located. Of the 38 candidates who responded to the letter of inquiry, 24 received their training at the University of North Carolina, 7 at the University of Michigan, and 7 at Yale University. Three of them have since taken further graduate work and obtained doctorates of philosophy, and a fourth is currently enrolled in a course leading to the doctorate degree.

Following completion of the training, 37 of the 38 did work as health educators for varying periods of time. Employment in health education ranged from less than 1 to 15 years with a median of 7½ years. The one candidate who did not work in this capacity married immediately following graduation, and although she did work for 6 months on a health project, it was not as a health educator. Currently, 22 of the 38 respondents are employed, 18 in health education positions and 4 in other fields.

Since all fellowships were awarded to women, marriage could be expected to remove a large portion of them from the labor market. Twenty-five have married, and they have usually withdrawn from employment at the time of marriage. However, several have returned to work after varying periods of absence. As a group they have worked in health education from less than 1 to 11¼ years with a median of 3¾ years. Currently 9 are employed: 5 in health education positions, 3 in teaching, and 1 as a laboratory technician.

Several of the respondents indicated they hope to return to active employment when their

children mature. Another factor possibly influencing the employment of married women is their place of residence. The women who listed teaching as their current work are residing in small towns where positions in health education may not exist. However, no data are available regarding this point or the preference for teaching school by the graduates.

Of the 13 respondents who are not married, all appear to have worked in health education since their graduation and are still working in a variety of types of agencies and positions. The length of such employment has varied from 9 to 14 $\frac{2}{3}$ years with a median of 12 $\frac{2}{3}$ years. The positions these graduates hold are:

Consultants for State boards of health: 3.

Consultants in the International Cooperation Administration, serving ministries of health in other countries: 2.

Consultants in the Indian Health program of the Public Health Service: 2.

Consultant in the National Tuberculosis Association: 1.

Health educators in Public Health Service regional offices: 2.

Faculty member of a school of public health in a State university: 1.

Professor of health education in a State university: 1.

Supervisor of health and physical education in a State department of public instruction: 1.

Fourteen respondents provided the unsolicited information that, although they were not currently in paid employment as health educators, they had participated as volunteers in a wide variety of health programs. These activities included:

Organizing the city for a poliomyelitis drive.

Serving on the American Red Cross health committee.

Chairing the health committee of the community chest.

Working with citizens groups to improve the State's public health laws.

Member of board of directors of the mental health society.

Member of board of directors of a tuberculosis association.

Teaching mothers' classes in the town's nursing service.

President of a State education association.

Committee member of the maternal health association.

Chairman of the YWCA health committee.

Member of the Committee on Local Resources of the League of Women Voters.

Health chairman of a parent-teacher association.

Education director of the citywide X-ray survey.

Member of the executive committee of a tuberculosis and health association.

Secretary of a community health council.

Member of the national board of YWCA.

Member of a local council of Girl Scouts of America.

Summary

The fellowship program of the W. K. Kellogg Foundation financed the training of 47 public health educators and stimulated the expansion of such training for more than a thousand others. Today, 15 years after the awarding of the first fellowship, a review of the professional activities of 38 of the 47 candidates who were awarded fellowships finds many of them in responsible positions in the public health field.