

CORPS CONNECTIONS

SITES
November 2010

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Members of the Corps:

Welcome to the first edition of “Corps Connections,” the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) quarterly newsletter. This newsletter is a result of feedback from you – Corps clinicians, scholars and sites – about the desire for improved communication. It is designed to provide periodic updates on what is happening with the Corps and connections to other sources of information.

As many of you have heard me say, this is an exciting time to be a member of the Corps. We are able to provide primary health care to more Americans than at any time in our history. As of September 30, 2010, the NHSC included more than 7,000 practicing clinicians and more than 10,000 sites.

In addition to our growing numbers, we are working hard to find better ways to support you, the members of the Corps. I hope you view this newsletter as one step in doing that. We are in awe of the work you do every day and thank you for your service.

With greatest admiration,



Promising Practices for Recruiting Clinicians

New Division of Regional Operations Also Available for Support

Posting jobs is one way to help recruit clinicians to your site. But attracting NHSC—or other— clinicians to serve your patients and embrace your community can be a challenge. When a clinician comes to your community for an in-person interview, consider implementing some of the successful tactics being used by other NHSC sites to educate them about your community and to ensure the clinician would be a good fit for the long run.

- Host a lunch, dinner, barbeque or other informal gathering and invite members of the community who are the same age and have a similar personal life (e.g. family, single) as the clinician.
- Showcase the cities, towns or activities just outside your community that the clinician can enjoy on their days off.
- Connect working spouses with local employment resources such as the local Chamber of Commerce or ask a professional headhunter in the state if they are willing to donate some time to talk to a prospective clinician’s spouse.
- Consider creating opportunities for clinicians to meet with local school officials and members of the PTA if they have children.
- Provide suggestions for realtors and relocation companies. Ask a realtor to take the clinician on a tour of the community highlighting price ranges and amenities certain areas offer.
- Provide the clinician with some free time in the middle of their visit to explore the area on their own and come back to you with specific questions.

For additional ideas on recruiting clinicians, the National Rural Recruitment and Retention Network (3RNet) is a helpful resource. Their Web site is <https://www.3rnet.org/>. 3RNet members are not-for-profit organizations helping health professionals find jobs in rural and underserved areas throughout the country.

NHSC Regional Support

The NHSC now has full-time staff working in every region of the U.S. Known as the Division of Regional Operations, regional representatives are the ears and eyes of NHSC in the field. Many of our regional representatives have been visiting your sites across the country. Some of you may have already met them. Their goal is to help you succeed as a NHSC site. For a listing of the regional representatives in your state you can call the NHSC at 1-800-221-9393.

This publication lists non-federal resources in order to provide additional information to consumers. The views and content in these resources have not been formally approved by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Listing these resources is not an endorsement by HHS or its components

“[The NHSC] is a great opportunity to learn and to be a part of a bigger network, to get out there and meet other people, but also to serve in places that really need help – that need our help.”

Nicole Tolle, Licensed Professional Counselor, Alamosa, CO

Happenings at Headquarters

- **The 2011 Loan Repayment Application cycle is now open.** The LRP application is open and applicants can now complete their applications, upload documents and submit to the NHSC from the Corps Web site. Key changes to the program this year include: a higher initial award of up to \$60,000 for two years of service; more flexible options to complete service, including a two-year full-time contract; a four-year half-time contract, and a two-year half-time contract; and, an updated service obligation for clinical practice hours to include a 20 percent credit for teaching and a 50 percent credit for teaching at a Teaching Health Center. For additional information on the 2011 LRP program, visit: <http://nhsc.bhpr.hrsa.gov/loanrepayment/pdf/2011Guidance.pdf>.
- **Flu Vaccinations for Health Care Workers.** The NHSC is working with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to encourage all health care workers to get their flu shots this season. CDC and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommend that all health care workers get an annual flu vaccine. Unfortunately, fewer than half report getting an annual flu vaccine. As a health care worker, by getting vaccinated, you can help protect your family at home as well as your patients at work from getting sick. Visit www.flu.gov for more information.
- **Health Information Technology (IT) and Quality Resources.** HRSA announced several resources available on its HIT Toolbox (<http://www.hrsa.gov/toolbox>) and Quality Web sites (<http://www.hrsa.gov/healthitandquality>) for practice sites. In addition, HRSA has also launched the “Rural Health IT Toolbox” to assist rural communities in adopting health IT systems. You can directly access the Rural Health IT Toolbox at <http://www.hrsa.gov/ruraltoolbox>.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **December 9-11, 2010.** NHSC Awardee Conference in San Francisco, CA.
- **December 14-16, 2010.** State Primary Care Offices Annual Meeting in Washington, DC.
- **January 16-22, 2011.** National Healthy Weight Week.
- **February 5, 2011.** American Dental Association’s Give Kids A Smile day. Sign up to participate at: <http://www.ada.org/3452.aspx>
- **March 17-20, 2011.** National Hispanic Medical Association Meeting in Washington, DC
- **March 24-28, 2011.** Osteopathic Family Physician Convention in San Antonio, TX.



Contact NHSC

Call **1-800-221-9393** or visit **NHSC.hrsa.gov**

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