

National Student Leadership Conference for Student in Healthcare
“Improving Health through Collaboration”
Draft

Background

The concept for the First National Leadership Conference for Students in Healthcare (NSLC) emerged from the growing desire of National health and health-related professions student organizations to embrace stronger relationships and work collaboratively to help eliminate health disparities and protect and improve the Nation’s health. At no other time in history has an effort of this type been more timely and critical due to the events of September 11, 2001 and subsequent Anthrax attacks on October 4, 2001.

The Leadership of the American Public Health Association’s Public Health Student Caucus (PHSC) recognized that now was the time to capture this “window of opportunity” by facilitating a dialogue among National student organizations representing health and health-related professions students in order to build a National student alliance and work collaboratively now and in the future. Healthy People 2010, the Nation’s prevention agenda, will serve as the framework for guiding the collaborative vision and actions of this new alliance.

In the past, many initiatives have attempted to bring the Medicine and Public Health communities together such as the Medicine and Public Health Initiative (MPHI) and formation of the Coalition of Health Professions Students (CHPS), however many of our natural partners in the management and delivery of effective and efficient healthcare such as healthcare managers, social workers, and nurses were not included in these initiatives. Clearly, many of those involved had diverse backgrounds, but each discipline was not represented. Recognizing this fact, PHSC’s leadership is working to foster this on-going national meeting to share ideas, information and work collaboratively to develop multidisciplinary student projects focused on achieving Healthy People 2010 objectives.

We hope that a leader from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is interested serving as a speaker and active participant in this national student movement to reinvigorate the Nation’s public health and healthcare infrastructure through improved collaboration, communication and partnerships.