Championing Nutrition and Dietetics Practitioners in Roles of Leadership in Public Health: Grassroots Projects and Ideas

During the fall HOD meeting delegates held Open Space sessions to brainstorm ideas for ways individual members and the Academy can work to create and pursue actions to advance leadership in public health. Below are the ideas that focused on individual grassroots engagement.

**Potential Projects and Ideas**

**Policy and Advocacy Experiences**
- Increase the percentage of Academy members participating in Action Alerts through state/local affiliates, DPGs, and MIGs
- Encourage and develop more policy-focused internship opportunities
- Promote and create more policy and advocacy fellowships
- Support RDN/NDTR candidates running for office through awareness of ANDPAC funds

**Boots on the Ground/Grassroots Efforts**
- Promote RDN/NDTR applications for the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service-applications open in June
  - [https://www.usphs.gov/apply/apply.aspx](https://www.usphs.gov/apply/apply.aspx)
- Advocate for RDN Eligibility with the National Health Service Corps
  - [https://nhsc.hrsa.gov/scholarships/index.html](https://nhsc.hrsa.gov/scholarships/index.html)
- Increase opportunities for dietetic interns to work in public health with local school districts, government programs/offices, and local/state dietetic associations
- Participate in and lead public health nutrition projects at the local, state, and federal levels

**Collaboration**
- Increase collaboration and networking with other professions at meetings, conferences, and events
- Build strategic connections and collaborations with other medical disciplines on an affiliate, DPG, MIG, or member level
- Seize opportunities to position RDNs and NDTRs on state/local task forces related to public health issues.
- Conduct survey on perceptions between dietetics and public health professions

**Communication Skills**
- Promote nutrition and dietetics practitioners in public health through social media and marketing initiatives

**Complementary Skill Development**
- Develop more combined DI programs and collaborative masters degrees (MPH, MBA, minors) and promote existing programs in undergraduate studies
- Increase scholarship opportunities for RDNs or dietetic students to obtain MPH
Professional Relationships, Leadership, and Mentoring

- Pipeline Mentoring – Promote mid- and advanced-practice and interdisciplinary/external mentoring in public health
- Host a summit between public health and dietetics organizations and professionals to brainstorm solutions to workforce gap and advancing and preparing leaders
- Develop level 2 and 3 CPE opportunities related to advancing public health leadership

Technology and Outcomes Data and Management

- Host a summit on technology, big data, and IT collaboration to establish efficacy of nutrition’s position in public health

Volunteer Experiences

- Develop a database of organizations and volunteer opportunities eligible for CPE
- Promote volunteer experiences through philanthropy/community service representative/chair in affiliates, DPGs, and MIGs to provide continuous local and state opportunities
- Increase number of RDNs and NDTRs on public health boards, committees, and governing positions
- Showcase volunteers and leaders in public health

Academy Projects in Progress

- Certificate of Training in Public Policy
- Public Health Nutrition Workforce Capacity study
- Lifestyle First and Nutrition in Population Health Grant Program initiatives
- Motion outcomes work from Championing Nutrition and Dietetics Practitioners in Roles of Leadership in Public Health

To learn more about the topic as well as available resources, review Championing Nutrition and Dietetics Practitioners in Roles of Leadership in Public Health information on the HOD webpage of the Academy website.

If you would like to take a lead or participate in any of the grassroots efforts related to advancing leadership in public health, please complete this survey.