

A. Description of the project- 30 points

1. Abstract

My focus, as a pharmacist and pharmacy technician educator, has been directed to empowering patients to become active participants in their healthcare and treatment plan. As a graduate student at University of the Western Cape School of Public Health, I now recognize that environmental and social conditions of illness must also be addressed. The focus must shift from solely considering the individual role in health outcomes and expand to address the role the community plays in solving health care issues.

Professional leave will facilitate my pursuit of a joint Master's of Public Health degree from the University of Washington and the University of the Western Cape, South Africa. I have been accepted by the University of the Western Cape School of Public Health (2004-5). I am currently enrolled as a graduate non-matric student at University of Washington School of Public Health. While I await results of my formal application to University of Washington School of Public Health I am taking core requirements (transcripts and acceptance letters enclosed). Professional leave will enable me to fully concentrate on my studies and satisfy research requirements.

A second area I will focus on during this professional leave is the role of service learning in the education of pharmacy technicians and pharmacists. During my previous visit to South Africa, I discovered that all students in health careers are required to complete community service. I am interested in exploring how other universities have incorporated service learning in their curriculum. Patient care extends beyond the confines of the walls of the pharmacy. It is within the scope of practice of pharmacy technicians to engage in limited health promotion activities. I envision a corps of pharmacy technicians that can educate seniors about blood pressure monitors or blood glucose monitors. They could explain their use and importance of monitoring.

2. Objectives, plan, timeline

- Objective 1: To complete coursework in the graduate program at the University of the Western Cape and University of Washington Schools of Public Health full-time to hasten completion of Master's degree in Public Health
- To attend courses at University of Washington and University of the Western Cape, South Africa School of Public Health to satisfy Master of Public Health degree requirements
 - To complete field research requirements for Master's thesis

I plan to take professional leave during Summer quarter 2004 and Fall quarter 2004. This timeframe will enable me to attend Winter School at University of the Western Cape and coordinate activities related to my research project: School-based environmental science - chronic disease prevention project. This project involves creation of a school based garden. The garden will be used to teach environmental

science, enhance discussion of role of diet and chronic disease, and enhance food security for the students. I will return to the United States Fall 2004 to attend classes, full time, at the University of Washington.

Objective 2: To review community service requirements for health career students for possible implementation in the pharmacy technician program

South Africa currently requires community service for all students enrolled in professional programs. I plan to meet with the Director of the School of Pharmacy at University of Western Cape and meet with the provincial health district education unit, to see how they incorporate service learning into the education of pharmacists and pharmacy technician students.

3. How I will demonstrate objectives have been achieved

At the completion of the professional leave period I will submit transcripts for the coursework taken during leave, thus demonstrating enrollment and satisfactory achievement. I will additionally submit a summary of service learning as practiced in South Africa. This will accompany recommendations for ways to incorporate this into the Pharmacy Technician Program at North Seattle Community College.

4. Additional financial support sought

NONE

B. Please respond in detail to the following. Explain how your proposal will:

1. Benefit students, instructional program, college and community (40 points)

Expansion of the curriculum of the Pharmacy Technician program to incorporate service learning will benefit students, the program, North Seattle Community College and the community. I am committed to infusion of civic purposes in education. Service learning can provide a valuable learning experience for the pharmacy technician student. Students will gain a greater appreciation for their role as health professionals while providing benefit to the community. It also provides great exposure for the pharmacy technician program and North Seattle Community College. Opportunities for service learning could include giving poison prevention workshops to preschoolers and their care providers, or talking to elders about use of blood glucose monitors and blood pressure monitors. The only limit to this community service learning may be state restrictions on scope of practice for pharmacy technicians. A service-learning component by the pharmacy technician program will contribute to building relationships between civic groups, professional organizations, and college.

Upon my return, I will give a presentation at the teaching and learning center. This presentation will include a description of service learning as an instructional strategy.

2. **Benefit professional/personal development potential for instructor (30 points)**

Attainment of a Master's degree is an important part of my personal and professional development. For more than ten years I have advocated for an expansion of the role of pharmacy technicians, commensurate with increased education, and recognition of them as an integral part of the patient health care team. I have traveled nationally and internationally advocating a paradigm shift in the education and utilization of pharmacy technicians. I believe my message will be accepted more readily and my effectiveness enhanced backed by a graduate level degree. Furthermore, my experiences abroad and at home have provided unique insights into the valuable role of public health. Pursuing a Master's of Public Health at the University of Washington and University of the Western Cape, South Africa will enable me to fully explore the determinants of health, expand my understanding of the conditions that augment or hinder developing health policy, and give me the tools to contribute to the creation of healthier populations. This educational leave would further enhance my contributions to the pharmacy technician program at the college and to public health at the community level. It will enable me to explore the role of pharmacy in the broader context of public health.

C. Ten bonus points for individual with seven years work experience with the district

I have been employed by the college district since 1989. I have applied for professional leave once (2002-3) but did not receive funding. I have contributed to the district and the pharmacy technician program at North Seattle Community College by developing new courses, updating course materials, writing and receiving grants to support programming (Eli Lilly), and procuring donation of pharmacy-based prescription filling software (Pharmserv Windows[®] approximate value \$10,000.00) I believe my proposal for professional leave will further benefit the college community by providing me with greater linkage to the public health community that I may be able to leverage to the benefit of the college. Furthermore, I believe I have demonstrated commitment to the district, deserving of your support.