Social Work Earns $1.2 Million Health Insurance Grant; Outreach Efforts of City of Hattiesburg’s E3 Health Initiative to be Expanded

By Hanna Knowles

The School of Social Work at Southern Miss has been awarded more than $1.2 million in Affordable Care Act funding from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). The funds will help consumers sign up for affordable Health Insurance Marketplace coverage in 2016.

“The beneficiaries of the project are uninsured individuals and families in Mississippi’s three southernmost health care districts eligible for health insurance under the landmark Affordable Care Act,” said Dr. Michael Forster, dean of the College of Health and principal investigator.

The health access project is a replication of the city of Hattiesburg’s and School of Social Work’s Educate, Enroll, Empower (E3) Health Initiative with the addition of Marketplace enrollment.

“I am very proud of the success the City of Hattiesburg’s E3 Health Initiative has had over the past 12 months,” said Hattiesburg Mayor Johnny DuPree. “Many Hattiesburg children and families now have health coverage through Medicaid or the Children’s Health Insurance Plan as a result of E3 efforts to simplify the enrollment process and to make health coverage more accessible. Our long-term partnership with the Southern Miss School of Social Work has again resulted in an opportunity to maintain and extend needed services not only to Hattiesburg, but now to the 24 southernmost counties in Mississippi.”

“As an applied discipline the goal is that we not only engage in scholarship for students and faculty, but that we do something for the community,” said Dr. Tim Rehner, director of the School of Social Work. “In Mississippi, there are many social determinants that prevent people from having access to health care. This project provides a unique opportunity for the School of Social Work to make a difference in the health and well-being of residents.”

Alumni Spotlight

Emanuel Hollins (Kinesiotherapy, 2010) is a kinesiotherapist at Waco VA Medical Center in Waco, Texas. Emanuel believes his coursework, traditional study combined with hands-on experience, prepared him for his job today. He stated, “the classes not only educated me on the skills needed for this profession but also allowed me to perform skills in the class setting.”

While attending Southern Miss, he was a member of the Kinesiotherapy Club and Men of Excellence Organization.

Hollins plans to pursue a master’s degree in public health or health administration while continuing to work. After obtaining his master’s degree, he aims to advance into a director’s role in rehabilitation with the Department of Veteran Affairs. Before retiring, he hopes to develop his own health and wellness facility.

In his spare time, Hollins enjoys time with his family and friends and traveling with his wife.
The Sunrise Rotary Club of Hattiesburg presented the DuBard School for Language Disorders at The University of Southern Mississippi with a check for $4,600 on Tuesday, June 1. The club recently hosted a 5K run/walk and chose to give the proceeds to DuBard School.

“I truly believe the increased number of opportunities presented to the graduates from the three degree levels will create a group of well-educated and highly skilled nutrition and dietetics professionals that are poised to improve the health of Mississippi residents and the nation,” said Molaison.

Athletic Training Program at Southern Miss Celebrates 40th Anniversary

By Hanna Knowles

The 2015-2016 academic year marks the 40th anniversary of the Athletic Training Program offered by Southern Miss’ School of Kinesiology.

In celebration, the Southern Miss Athletic Training Alumni Association will host a tailgate prior to the homecoming game Oct. 17 from 2-6 p.m. at Pride Field on the Hattiesburg Campus. All alumni of the program, professors and current athletic training students are welcome to attend. Admission is free.

Before the tailgate, the Athletic Training Club is hosting the 20th annual Homecoming 5K at 8:30 a.m. at Pride Field.

Proceeds from the Homecoming 5K will benefit the Athletic Training Club and support students attending the Southeastern Athletic Trainers’ Association’s Athletic Training Student Symposium, where they will have an opportunity to learn and prepare for the National Athletic Trainers’ Association Board of Certification exam. The national certification exam is required to become a certified athletic trainer. The 2014-2015 graduating class boasts a 100 percent first time pass rate, surpassing the national average of 82 percent.

Kinesiology Professor Heading to Tokyo for Coach Developer Program

By Hanna Knowles

There is more to being a coach than blowing a whistle and calling plays. Great athletes need to be led by great coaches and great coaches need to be led by coach developers.

Dr. Melissa Thompson, associate professor in Southern Miss’ School of Kinesiology, will attend the Nippon Sport Science University and International Council for Coaching Excellence Coach Developer Program in Tokyo, Japan.