



## **Northwest Public Health Training Center**

at University of Washington Northwest Center for Public Health Practice

### **NORTHWEST PUBLIC HEALTH TRAINING CENTER**

***Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Alaska, Montana and Wyoming***

#### **Summary of the PHTC**

The mission of the Northwest Center for Public Health Practice, located in the **University of Washington School of Public Health and Community Medicine**, is to improve the quality and effectiveness of public health practice by linking academia and the public health community. The Center collaborates with partners in six states in the Northwestern United States through a Regional Workforce Network. Formal collaboration occurs through quarterly face-to-face meetings of a Regional Network Steering Committee comprised of representatives from each of the six partner states and the Northwest Center for Public Health Practice. These six states – Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming – extend across three time zones and two Public Health Service regions and make up almost one-third of the landmass and 5% of the population of the United States.

Our Public Health Training Center objectives include:

- Design and conduct workforce assessments for each state
- Develop a training resource inventory
- Identify the gaps between the workforce competency needs and existing training resources and develop new curricula to fill the training gaps
- Deliver new courses and programs using on-site and distance learning modalities to meet the needs of a geographically diverse workforce
- Increase practicum sites in underserved areas for resident degree students
- Increase the minority/disadvantaged persons represented in the public health workforce through collaborations with state partners and other academic institutions
- Technical assistance to State and local health departments to support workforce development activities

#### **Impact of the PHTC**

The Network's innovative collaboration builds on the strengths and expertise of the PHTC and our partner states to enhance local and regional workforce development capacity in the Northwest. Some examples of these collaborations include the following:

- The Northwest PHTC partners with expert faculty and workforce development staff in Alaska, Montana and Wyoming to plan and implement the Summer Institutes for Public Health Practice, where over 400 public health workers gained new skills and knowledge in core public health preparedness, management and leadership over the last three years.
- The Northwest Regional Workforce Development Network is actively expanding the availability of collaborative regional training opportunities through activities such as the March 2003 regional Core Functions and Ten Essential Services of Public Health satellite broadcast, sponsored by Wyoming Department of Health and taught by PHTC faculty, for over 100 students in Montana, Washington, Idaho and Wyoming.
- The Northwest PHTC is actively expanding its partnership and collaboration with under-served populations through partnership- and capacity-building activities with the Northwest Indian College (NWIC) to offer a Spring 2003 "Environmental Health for American Indians" distance learning course. A milestone for this PHTC's and the University of Washington is the implementation of a joint graduate/undergraduate program in Environmental Health/Public Health at the NWIC.

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