

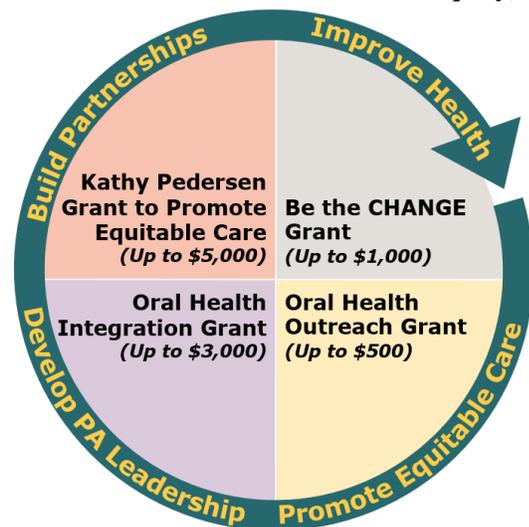
The nccPA Health Foundation believes passionately in designing scalable initiatives that build PA capacity to advance the role of certified PAs to improve health. We do so through education and research activities that promote the PA profession, benefit patients, and foster partnerships. Our activities are built around four central initiatives: leadership convenings, integration of oral health, promotion of mental health, and support for educational activities.

Below, we've highlighted Foundation resources that we believe are of greatest interest and utility to PA educators and your students.



### 50 Grants & Counting Build PA and Student Skills

The Foundation has awarded more than 50 grants across its current grant programs. Two of the programs focus on oral health integration and outreach, while the Be the CHANGE (Create Health Access Now for Greater Equity) grant provides up to \$1,000 in funding to address a



public health need in one's community. We encourage PA faculty and students, particularly those in service-learning or community medicine courses, to apply for funding to support their work. Educators, practicing PAs, and students from 24 states have received these grants, and funding is still available this year. Complete application details can be found online. In addition to improving health, applicants gain valuable experience with a grant writing process, including designing projects, building partnerships, and leading efforts to successful completion.

In August, the Foundation selected its second Kathy J. Pedersen Grant to Promote Equitable Care recipient. This competitive grant seeks to foster social accountability and was awarded to the Marquette University PA Program for their project to foster health literacy. The next funding cycle will open in early 2018.

### Partners in Mental Health Summit Launches New Initiative

In June, 33 healthcare leaders, including PAs, educators, and interprofessional champions as well as representatives from the National Alliance on Mental Illness and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, attended the Summit. PAs practicing in psychiatry and other specialties ensured this effort could broadly consider how to advance the role of *all* PAs to better address the nation's mental health crisis. Joining the nccPA Health Foundation in designing the Summit was a steering committee composed of leaders from AAPA, ARC-PA,

NCCPA, the PA Foundation, and PAEA; and the steering committee is now working to identify opportunities to advance this work. Efforts are also underway to produce a Summit Proceedings to share more about the dialogue and next steps. Attendees agreed that the more than 115,500 certified PAs have an important opportunity to address mental health needs. The purpose of such a movement will be to effect systemic change that improves the nation's health by advancing the roles of PAs and strengthening partnerships to

address issues impacting mental health and substance use disorders. With more than 106 million Americans living in mental health profession shortage areas (as calculated by the Health Resources and Services Administration), this convening of PA and other thought leaders is timely; and we look forward to engaging PA educators and students in this multi-year initiative.



### **New Oral Health Videos Highlight Small Steps for Big Impact**

This Spring, the Foundation launched the latest installments in its interprofessional video series. The four clips build on our previous work, which makes a clarion call for PAs and other providers to integrate oral health in education and practice. The new three-minute clips each focus on something PAs can do to make a big impact, including learning about oral health, connecting oral to systemic health, collaborating with other healthcare team members, and educating patients. Each clip features an easy-to-implement next step from additional education to incorporating oral health focused questions in a patient history. Video participant Tiffany Haynie, PA-C, explains, *“all it takes is a little effort every day, to try to be a little bit better and you'll be able to make a big difference in this world.”* The Foundation's videos are a free resource available on our website and a great way to start conversations about oral health, equitable care, public health, and service-learning. These videos were funded by the Foundation and the PA Leadership Initiative in Oral Health (which is supported by the National Interprofessional Initiative in Oral Health and its funders the DentaQuest Foundation and Washington Dental Service Foundation).

Earlier this year, the Foundation launched its website, [www.nccpahealthfoundation.net](http://www.nccpahealthfoundation.net), to feature our grantees' work as well as the causes the Foundation is passionate about addressing. We believe that effectively reaching our goals will require us to partner with others; and we hope those partnerships continue to include the Physician Assistant Education Association as well as PA faculty, preceptors, and students.

Respectfully submitted,



O.T. Wendel, Ph.D.  
Board Chair



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