From the Desk of the Chancellor

Student Outreach Clinic

Oct. 8, 2013
by Charles R. Bantz

The IU Student Outreach Clinic received the Governor’s Service Award for Exemplary Service Learning last Thursday. The award is sponsored by the Indiana Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives and Indiana Commission on Community Service and Volunteerism, and the award ceremony is part of the annual Governor’s Conference on Service and Nonprofit Capacity Building.

Of the eight Governor’s Awards, the IU Student Outreach Clinic was recognized for outstanding service learning. The clinic is a student-led organization founded with the dual mission of providing high quality health services in underserved communities, while simultaneously enriching the education and professional development of graduate and professional students through service learning. Hundreds of students have volunteered their time and efforts to the clinic since its inception in 2009, employing skills and concepts learned in the classroom to help meet the health and welfare needs of the community. IU Trustee Janice Farlow, a 4th-year medical student, is chair of the Student Outreach Clinic, and Cristiano Piron, a 3rd-year medical student, is vice chair.

I visited the Student Outreach Clinic in the Neighborhood Fellowship Church on the Eastside last summer and was very impressed by the operation, which includes not only our medical students, but also IUPUI students in dentistry, physical therapy, social work, and the McKinney law school, as well as physical therapy students from the University of Indianapolis and pharmacy students from Butler. Student volunteers also serve on subcommittees that handle everything from promotional videos and other community outreach, to fundraising and grantwriting, to maintaining inventory and purchasing supplies.

Comments? Write chancrrl@iupui.edu.

Read more From the Desk of the Chancellor stories »