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Health Care Involves Everybody: A Fair to Bridge Patient, Community and Campus Expertise: Summary of the Event

The “Health Care Involves Everybody” Fair held on October 29th, 2009 at the UBC Life Sciences Centre was a huge success. Students from many different faculties and disciplines attended the Fair and expressed positive outcomes from their interactions with community members.

We had 20 community health organizations attend the Fair with 200-300 students in attendance. Health Services faculty members also attended and intermingled with community members and students. We had wonderful student and UBC staff volunteers that made the day a success.

Feedback from Community Groups was extremely positive. Everyone seemed very excited to have the chance to participate in such an open format and share information with the student body. Many students were not aware of community organizations and the services they could offer before the Fair and left with a new wealth of information.

Student feedback was equally as positive with comments such as:

“Info booths are loaded with good pamphlets and set up was great!”

“I enjoyed meeting and learning about other programs and services provided.”

“It was nice to see a health fair that was focused on community health groups and did not have commercial organizations present.”

Event staff overheard students asking intelligent and thought-provoking questions at the community booths and community members stated that they had good interactions with students.

We wish to pursue more avenues for advertising and funding in the next year and get an even bigger turn out for the next Fair. We would also like to see the Fair expand and liaison with more community groups in the future.

The Division of Health Care Communication and the Patient and Community Voice (PCV) Project are hoping to create more opportunities to gather with the community groups who attended the Fair and expand the learning and teaching opportunities of the PCV project.

We hope to see you in the very near future!