

ICAPP® | The Economic Development Program of the University System of Georgia



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ICAPP Pilot Project Increased Capacity of Physician Assistant (PA) Program at Georgia Health Sciences University (GHSU)

Project also made the PA program more accessible for Georgians who live far from Augusta

A two-year ICAPP pilot project made it possible for GHSU to expand the capacity of its Master of Physician Assistant (MPA) program by 10 students each year, so that the program could enroll the total number of students for which it is accredited (50). Nineteen students graduated with an MPA through the project, with the final group graduating August 4th.

"WIMBA technology allowed us to extend our campus classroom instruction to students in remote locations throughout Georgia," says Dr. Bonnie Dadig, chair of GHSU's PA department. The MPA curriculum is composed of instructional courses and supervised practice.

With WIMBA, Georgians unable to relocate to Augusta could "attend" traditional lectures as they were delivered in the classroom, and participate in classroom discussions from their homes, local libraries, or other University System of Georgia (USG) institutions.

For skills labs and small group activities, students had two choices. They could go to GHSU's campus in Augusta, or, through a partnership developed for the ICAPP project, go to Athens Technical College, saving up to four hours of driving time each class day.

ICAPP funding supported three semesters of instruction for 10 students in the Class of 2010 and for 10 students in the Class of 2011, and the project was completed July 1, 2010. Valuable resources developed during the project, such as recordings of lectures delivered through WIMBA, enrich the curriculum for today's students.



Dr. Bonnie Dadig, Georgia Health Sciences University

The 10 PAs who graduated in August 2010 practice across Georgia, in

- Alpharetta
- Canton
- Eastanollee
- Jasper
- Lawrenceville
- Milledgeville
- Savannah
- Smyrna

The nine new PAs who graduated August 2011 are registered for their certification examination in September. After they are certified, they will serve in physician practices and other health care settings across Georgia.



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