



Social Plan for At- Risk Communities



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Program Rationale

At Bridgetown International University, our priority is to ensure that medical education reflects and is responsive to the priority health care needs of communities. Increasing diversity of our medical student backgrounds and career intentions is an important factor in local medical education reform. As we strive for our students to become “enlightened agents of change”, they require more than medical knowledge and clinical skills. B.I.U. aims to identify this potential within our students and aid them in achieving this by offering superior quality medical and other health related education. While we have made tremendous strides to accomplish this through in-class learning it is also imperative to develop well rounded doctors who can take lessons from the classroom into real life. We at B.I.U, hope to create a solid foundation for professionalism and altruism through community engagement and service learning by exploring opportunities with community organizations, especially those working with underserved communities. This is a sentiment shared by the World Health Organization in a 1995 statement on social accountability which said there is an obligation to direct their education, research and service activities toward addressing the priority health concerns of the community, region or nation they have a mandate to serve. This only reinforces the importance of creating meaningful learning experiences, incorporating service and civic engagement and providing useful contributions to community partners to construct nurturing and compassionate physicians here at Bridgetown International University.

Vision

Our program seeks to facilitate learning, personal growth and cultural understanding while engaging and empowering communities through active participation in organized service to foster social accountability and compassion.

Aims & Objectives

The BIU SPARC program connects the BIU family students with the community by:

1. Creating a solid relationship between BIU and the Barbadian society.
2. Ensuring that medical education is responsive to the priority needs of the Barbadian community.
3. Raising consciousness among students, faculty and staff on the importance of serving the at-risk communities of Barbados.
4. Helping students understand that higher education is not an inseparable institution from the community, whose mission is applying science in real life.
5. Providing learning experiences to the students by placing them in the community, to help solve problems of local development.
6. Increasing students' intellectual capacity in doing research, analysis and scientific problem solving in building a dynamic society.
7. Improving the communication skills of students by dealing with a more diverse group of individuals.

Program Structure

BIU-SPARC is a strategic plan on how the university is working toward the purpose of serving the community. It is tailored to create a bridge between the BIU family student body and the Barbadian society. The main focus of our project is to create social awareness among young doctors by placing them in new social environments where they will be exposed to social/cultural differences within society and gain first-hand experience by working with persons from varying walks of life.

It is tailored to create a bridge between the student body using the American Medical Student Association BIU Chapter (BIU- AMSA) as an intermediary to the Barbadian community.

Timeline of Program Implementation

Phase One: Short- Term Initiatives

One time projects and initiatives provide B.I.U. students with the perfect opportunity to get exposure to major change- makers in our local communities through supporting the mission of these impactful organisations. These include but are not limited to, give back programs. We go into the community and provide donations to charities and special groups providing services to underprivileged persons.

Charities and Target Dates:

❖ **Donation #1: March 2022-**

Barbados Alliance to End Homelessness (Sanitization Kits)

➤ Mr. Kemar Saffrey [President & Project Manager]- 538-2480

❖ **Donation #2: July 2022-**

Supreme Counselling for Personal Development (School Supplies)

➤ Mr. Shawn Clarke [Chief Executive Officer]- 538-9769

❖ **Donation #3: November 2022-**

Barbados Geriatric Hospital (Hospital Supplies)

➤ [Administration]- 436-6663

Phase Two: Medium- Term Activities

Collaborative, supervised and student- lead workshops/ clinics where we go into an existing centre and carry out blood, pressure checks and basic check-ups and give presentations on preventative care.

Organisations for Collaboration:

❖ Barbados Association of Retired Persons (blood pressure checks)-

➤ [Administration] 538-2277

❖ Barbados Cancer Society (wellness workshops)

➤ Dr. Dorothy Cooke- Johnson (President) 436-8888

❖ The Diabetes and Hypertension Association of Barbados

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- 228-3422 [Administration] Online Forms
 - ❖ Heart & Stroke Foundation of Barbados
 - 228-3553 [Administration] Online Forms

Phase Three: Long- Term Program Sustainability

Part A- This phase consists of well established social programs where students go into established NGOs, or charities and provide a service. Upon completion of a predetermined amount of work covering an aspect of medicine within a certain amount of hours students are rewarded with credits toward their degree or a certificate of completion for voluntary work.

Part B- Community Clinics [Supervised by a Clinician licensed to practise in Barbados]

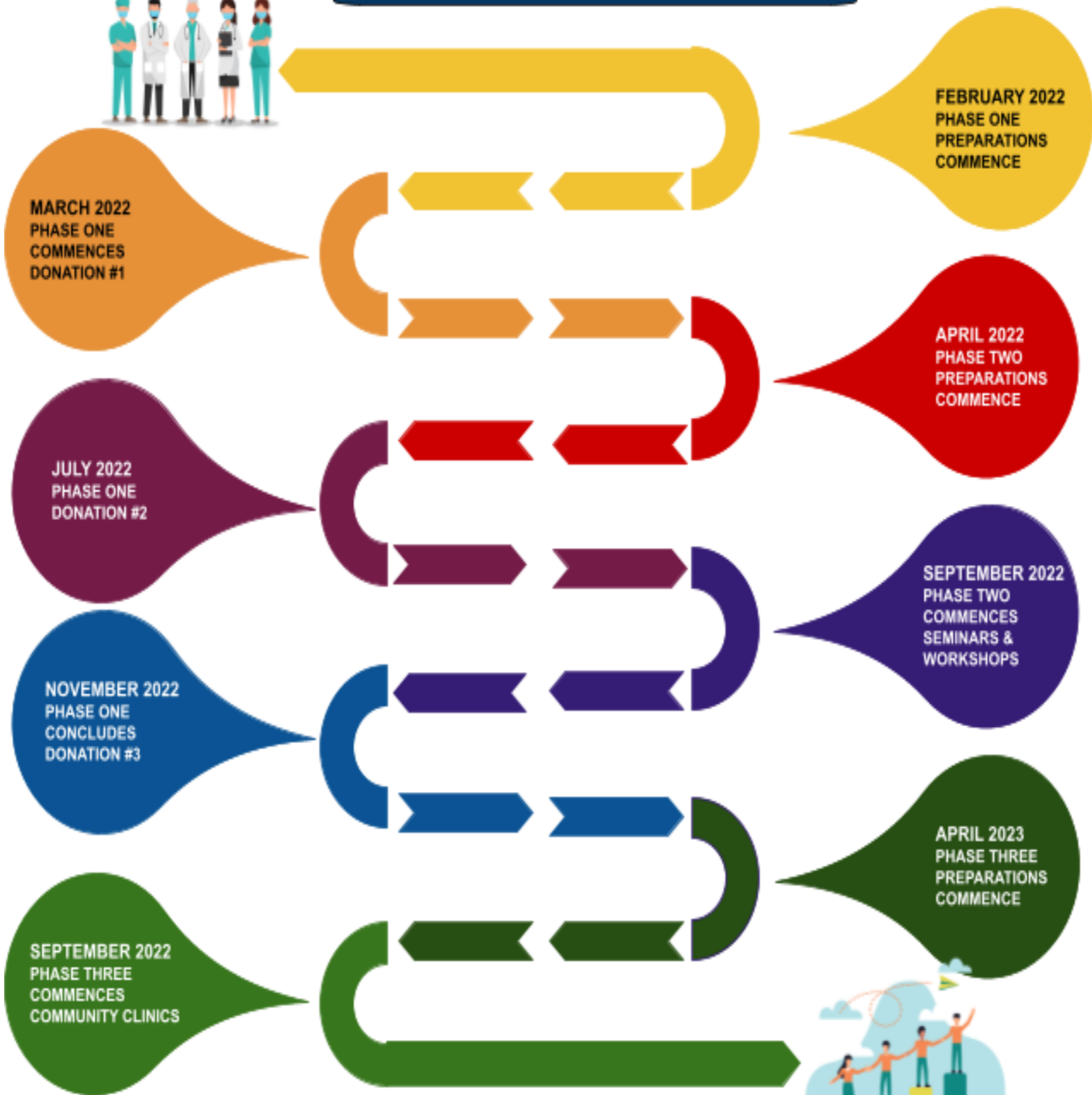
Student prerequisites for shadow positions are: minimum 3.5 G.P.A and tutor recommendation.

- ❖ Direct Care Ministries [B'dos Alliance to End Homelessness]- offers clients access to solid service agencies, medical services, counselling, educational classes, employment preparation and employment placement.
 - Mr. Kemar Saffrey [President & Project Manager]- 538-2480
- ❖ Barbados Geriatric Hospital- companionship, volunteer, internship and shadow programmes.
 - [Administration]- 436-6663
- ❖ Barbados Family Planning Association- collaborative effort- seminars and workshops. The BFPA supports the proven curriculum in Human & Family Life Education currently in our schools by utilising their own life empowering Comprehensive Development Curriculum. The BFPA annually visits all primary and secondary schools, the Barbados Community College, the Samuel Jackman Prescod Institute of Technology and the University of the West Indies Cave Hill Campus. The BFPA also works annually with numerous Easter, Summer and Christmas Camps.
 - [Main Office] 437-3561
- ❖ Barbados Association of Medical Practitioners- internships/ shadow positions at private practices eg. Barbados Fertility Centre
 - [Administration] 429-7569

BIU- S.P.A.R.C. Program Organisational Chart



BIU- S.P.A.R.C. PROGRAM TIMELINE



Anticipated Benefits

Community Benefits

- ❖ The greatest benefit of community outreach programs is that the programs serve people who are often unable to help themselves.
- ❖ These programs provide education and services to groups of people who simply are not well-educated or misinformed. Our program is designed to serve priority populations that are less likely to use preventive health services and have a higher disease burden compared to the general population.
- ❖ Our program intends to create opportunities and prevent problems by addressing specific immediate and long term needs within the Barbadian society. It is our hope to cultivate healthy habits, skills and interests within the under-targeted Barbadian society.

Student Benefits

- ❖ Inculcating among students a life of service and compassion which helps them to realise that they are able to make useful contributions to society through social action.
- ❖ Volunteering can also help students grow in their learning. Through community service, students gain real- worlds experience and practice important habits like leadership, problem-solving and time management. Volunteering offers students the opportunity to apply their classroom learning to practical scenarios that have real implications. In other words, service- learning opportunities can offer the same skills-boosting opportunities as student internships, but with the added benefits of improving the lives of others.
- ❖ Non-profits partners with other businesses, organisations and change makers in their communities. Working with charity organisations is a great way for students to explore career paths and non-profit employees are usually more than happy to put their volunteers in touch with the right people. Furthermore, nonprofit professionals can offer helpful advice to guide students in their studies.
- ❖ Students that enter the workforce with volunteer experience are not only boosting their resume but are effectively standing-out among other potential, and equally qualified, candidates.

Key Success Factors

To identify successful voluntary and community projects the following criteria was used;

- ❖ The relative significance of the project to the community. The Barbadian society has challenges specific to its population based on resources, social determinants of health and needs. If we have identified the existing challenges that impact the target population, as well as anticipated challenges with the program implementation, they will be better prepared to combat those challenges when they arise.
- ❖ Ability for students to engage with Barbadian society. One key feature of successful programs is the engagement of many different stakeholders within a rural community. Programs that include a variety of different providers, agencies and investors in their programs are typically more effective.
- ❖ Sustainability is an important program component to address early in the planning and implementation stages, so that systems can be established to actually keep the program functioning and improving health in a community. A sustainable plan is a roadmap for achieving long- term goals and documents strategies to continue the program, activities and partnerships.
- ❖ The nature of the sponsoring body or partnership. It is important for outreach programs to develop strong partnerships with other organizations. Organizations with similar missions can partner with each other and work together to achieve similar goals.