Welcome to this slide show describing various aspects of the Robert Wood Johnson Health and Society Scholars Program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.
My name is Stephanie Robert and I’m one of the three co-directors of the UW-Madison site. I’m a medical sociologist and gerontologist with appointments in the School of Social Work and the Department of Population Health Sciences. In this picture, that’s me in the center, and next to me is my co-director John Mullahy, a health economist in the Department of Population Health Sciences. On the right is co-director Dave Kindig, a well known physician-administrator-researcher, who has spent the last 10 years focusing on population health issues.
This is the WARF Building--the home of our program. Our program is housed physically and administratively within the Department of Population Health Sciences, within the UW School of Medicine and Public Health. However, our participating faculty come from all across campus.
You can see the WARF building on the left of this picture which shows the West campus of the University of Wisconsin on Lake Mendota, and our Health Sciences Center complex, including our hospital, Schools of Medicine and Public Health, Nursing, Pharmacy, the Waisman Center, and the VA Hospital.
Our scholars are located in an office suite on the 10th floor of the WARF Building, and here is the view looking out of one of our current scholar’s window.
These are the RWJ scholars who are currently in their second year of the program, finishing up in August.
This is our cohort of new scholars, currently in their first year of the program. You can learn more about their interests on our web site.
Our program has a number of components, which are described on our website. The centerpiece is our weekly two-hour seminar, in which scholars and several of our core faculty meet weekly to discuss a range of population health topics.
We encourage scholars to both complete old projects and start new projects that push them in new directions. Previous scholar Rich Carpiano got out from behind his computer and conducted some new work with kids, mapping health issues in their community.
In terms of mentoring, we help scholars create a variety of collaborative or mentoring arrangements across the campus.
Beyond linking scholars to other mentors or colleagues on campus, John, Dave, and I stay involved with each of our scholars.
We are fortunate to have many exciting visitors coming to campus, such as David Williams from Harvard.
We had a visit from Harvey Fineberg, president of the Institute of Medicine and the head of the National Advisory Committee for the Health and Society Scholars Program. He’s the one in the tie.
In addition to encouraging traditional academic work, our program provides opportunities for scholar involvement with people who do policy and practice work related to population health.
Being located in Madison, just down the street from the capitol, there are many opportunities for scholars to interact with people in government as well as with our private sector institutions and advocacy groups.
Scholar Lindsey Leininger, who knew she wanted to do policy work, chose to spend a portion of her time each week working at the state Medicaid office on issues related to expanding access to health care.
Former scholar Rachel Kimbro, who never thought she would be interested in doing knowledge transfer work, became involved in the issue of breast feeding legislation in Madison, conducting radio interviews and publishing an opinion piece in the Wisconsin State Journal arguing for legislative action on this issue.
Beyond the academic program here at the university, Madison is a lovely city, and is often
cited in national rankings as one of the best cities to live in. Located between two lakes, you
see the university stretching at the top, and our downtown area, state capitol, and Frank
Lloyd Wright Convention Center at the bottom.
Even though we’re only a moderate size city, it’s a city with a lot going on including many good restaurants, plenty of activities in the arts, and other opportunities for entertainment and recreation.
Yes, it is cold in the winter, but even during that season we’re an outdoor place with numerous kinds of outdoor and indoor activities to us keep us occupied during the long months of February and March.
Madison is also a very outdoor-oriented city, and a family-friendly city as well, with lots of opportunities for jogging, biking, sailing, camping—almost anything that you could wish for.
As a Big Ten campus we also have major sports activities from football, to men’s and women’s basketball, volleyball, cross country, etc. There are many opportunities for being involved in these and other sports activities.
This is an evening in front of our Memorial Union where family, students, faculty, people from the city, and even RWJ scholars and co-directors, are known to gather to watch the sunset, enjoy listening to live music, have a beer or an ice cream, and participate in sailing or other waterfront activities.
The scholars socialize among themselves and their families.
In addition, we have events at faculty and scholar homes celebrating birthdays, the arrival of a new baby, and other holiday events.
We are known to have some fun.
In summary, the University of Wisconsin Madison is a wonderful place to study and learn as well as to live.
If we do have the opportunity of seeing you here in Madison, we look forward to showing you all the aspects of our program and our city in more depth.