

Denver School of Nursing Students Provide Health Care Education to Six Peru Villages

Students Provide 12 Days of medical visits, screenings, and vaccines to Peruvians



OCTOBER 21, 2016 – DENVER, CO—Four Denver School of Nursing (DSN) students and one DSN faculty member, a Women’s Health Nurse Practitioner (WHNP), provided healthcare and education to hundreds of Peruvians during their twelve-day trip to Iquitos, Peru.

The school’s Global Health Perspectives program (GHP) partnered with DB Peru (<http://dbperu.org/>), a non-profit organization working in the lower Napo River region of the Peruvian Amazon, to improve living conditions for the people of Peru by providing health care and education.

DSN student, Natasha Heiland, said, “When we visited the villages, we took a boat loaded with several doctors, volunteer nurses, and medical equipment. We set up the clinics in the school house of each village. Because the villages are so remote, they don’t have health facilities; the nearest hospital is hours away by boat”.

DSN students Anne Burnett, Airi Busam, Natasha Heiland, and Brittany Rosner were accompanied by Sue Hammerton, RN, WHNP. Students conducted 180 medical visits, administered 80 vaccines, and screened 73 women for cervical cancer. HPV is the

virus that causes human papillomavirus, one of the most common sexually transmitted infections; HPV immunizations were administered to 20 young women, which was a new vaccination to rural Peru.

“We gave antibiotics for infections, administered anti-parasitic drugs, provided wound care, treated dehydration and provided screenings and education regarding breast exams, HPV, and cervical cancer”, said Natasha Heiland. “We saw four unusual cases, including a child with osteomyelitis, an infection of the bone, a woman who had broken her arm two months ago and it healed twisted, a man with Lymphogranuloma Venereum, an uncommon infection of the lymph system, and a woman with ascites, an accumulation of fluid in the abdominal cavity which had occurred after a very high fever”, recalls Sue Hammerton.

A health fair and soccer tournament was held by DB Peru, and Peruvians from several surrounding villages traveled for hours to attend. Students provided health screenings, administered vaccines, and provided first aid. Additionally, Sue Hammerton and the students taught a class on “The Golden Minute” to a group of Peruvian midwives to teach interventions to help struggling newborns breathe in the first minute of life. Anne Burnett recalls, “The villagers were so appreciative and excited to learn and receive health care that it made every second we were in Peru valuable and worthwhile”.

Denver School of Nursing’s Global Health Perspectives program focuses on student development in global health settings around the world by combining classroom training with in-field service learning internships. GHP partners with nonprofits to promote its mission of healthcare education and sustainability in challenging national and international environments.

About Denver School of Nursing (DSN)

Denver School of Nursing, whose campus is located 1401 Nineteenth Street in Denver, Colorado, is a private, post-secondary college that provides educational programs and training for nursing professionals. The college specializes in offering rigorous curricula, clinical site-based academic programs toward associate and bachelor degrees in nursing and distance-delivered academic programs toward a bachelor degree in nursing. DSN is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), (www.hlcommission.org), (800-621-7440). Its associate and baccalaureate programs are accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN), 3343 Peachtree Road NE, Suite 850, Atlanta, GA 30326 (404-975-5000). DSN is granted full approval for its associate and bachelors nursing programs by the Colorado State Board of Nursing. National Council of State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (SARA) approval is maintained through the Colorado Department of Higher Education. For more information, call 303-292-0015 or visit www.denverschoolofnursing.edu.