



Eastern Shore Area Health Education Center

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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On Friday, November 15, 2019, the Eastern Shore Area Health Education Center (ESAHEC) partnered with Coastal Hospice in Berlin, Maryland to host a Geriatric Assessment Interdisciplinary Team (GAIT) Training.

The main goals of the GAIT program are to improve students' knowledge and attitudes regarding older adults and the field of geriatrics, emphasize the value of an interdisciplinary team approach to the assessment and treatment of older adults and expose students to rural, community-based facilities and agencies in order to encourage future employment in underserved areas.

GAIT students participate in a variety of interactive, learning activities including geriatric-focused lectures, an aging simulation, interdisciplinary team work and a patient chart review and interview experience at the host site.

Participating schools included: University of Maryland- Baltimore, University of Maryland- Baltimore County, University of Maryland- Shady Grove, University of Maryland- College Park, University of Maryland- Eastern Shore, Coppin State University, Towson University, Community College of Baltimore County (CCBC) and Salisbury University. Interdisciplinary teams included students in Pharmacy, Psychology, Medicine, Biological Sciences, Social Work and Physician Assistant programs.

University System of Maryland GAIT students are funded by grants through the Geriatrics and Gerontology Education and Research (GGEAR) program at the University of Maryland at Baltimore.

In its 24th year, the GAIT training made lasting impressions with the 21 students who attended the 1-day workshop. One student remarked, *"While it can be emotionally draining to work in hospice care, it can be very rewarding."* When asked about her most significant takeaway from the training, another student noted, *"Everyone provides different background information*

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about a patient and provides different information regarding future treatment. Without an interpersonal team, a patient may not receive the best care they possibly could.”

ESAHEC values the collaborative partnerships with the region’s geriatric facilities and continued support from the GGEAR program at University of Maryland-Baltimore and the director, Diane Martin, PhD. It is through these partnerships that GAIT participants are afforded the opportunity to experience geriatric-focused health care delivered in a team-based environment in a rural setting.

For more information on the GAIT program at ESAHEC, contact Randy Holliday at 410-221-2600 or rholliday@esahec.org



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