Pharmacy students, faculty volunteer time to provide diabetes health care education

In the course of their studies, students attending the Idaho State University College of Pharmacy realize the impact of diabetes, so much that they are working to build and improve upon "Operation Diabetes," in addition to their already rigorous pharmacy curriculum.

Already, 78 students, together with guidance from 14 members of the College’s faculty, have spent almost 600 volunteer hours to screen 231 patients and educate 677 children and adults through the course of 17 events and student projects, according to student records.

To provide continued support to the students, the College of Pharmacy has established the Operation Diabetes Fund. Tax-deductible contributions are accepted through the ISU Foundation, and directed exclusively to supporting pharmacy students in the advancement of this program.

Donations from alumni and friends will be used to augment rigorous student fund-raising efforts; support student involvement in all local diabetes health fairs; and other activities, such as the Educating Educators project.

Educating Educators was developed by pharmacy students to provide presentations to middle and high school teachers who in turn provide education to youth about diabetes. Students also are recruiting health care providers including physical therapists, nurses, dieticians and ophthalmologists with whom to collaborate to promote this program and create an awareness of this life-long disease.

Students are requesting alumni and friends of the College to assist with contributions to support Operation Diabetes. In recognition of support, donor names will be posted in Leonard Hall during the year in which the contribution was made, there by recognizing donors as supporters of the College’s mission to develop leaders in pharmacy through Operation Diabetes.

To contribute, please contact Tressa Rockwood at 208-282-3655 or tressa@pharmacy.isu.edu.

College of Pharmacy P1 student, Jared Turner, prepares to administer blood screening during a recent diabetes health fair in American Falls.
P2 class to host dinner and auction fund-raiser for fellow student and family

The P2 class of the College of Pharmacy will sponsor a dinner and auction fundraiser April 8 to help defray financial commitments for a fellow student who lost his wife and the mother of their six-month-old son following a sudden illness.

Angela Osterman, the wife of second-year College of Pharmacy student, Brian, and mother of Carter, passed away on December 10, 2004. Angela was employed at Idaho State University as a management assistant with the University administration offices, according to Audra McCoy, fellow P2 and benefit coordinator.

“Angela Osterman was the main financial support for the Osterman family as well as the emotional support that many of us know is very important during this intense schooling,” McCoy said.

The homemade dinner will include steak, chicken or fish with baked potatoes, steamed vegetables, rolls, beverage and dessert. Cost for the dinner is $12 per person, $22 per couple and $42 for a family of four. The fundraiser will be held in the Pond Student Union Building Wood River Room beginning at 6 p.m.

Students have been soliciting auction items, gift certificates and services from area businesses and live entertainment is slated, McCoy said.

In addition, a bake-off contest featuring the best desserts will be held. To participate in the contest, contact McCoy at 234-6598 or mccoaudr@otc.isu.edu.

For more information or to contribute to the benefit, contact McCoy; Denise Evey, 234-6598 or eveydeni@otc.isu.edu, or Suzanne Peck at 282-2171.