

A New Interprofessional Event Expands Awareness through Curiosity, Accountability, Appreciation, Respect, Empathy, and Service

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Objectives

To create an interprofessional, interactive activity to expand awareness of one's privilege and to increase empathy for others through a new educational activity.

Introduction

- There is a need for health care professional schools to implement ways to help the next generation of healthcare professionals to care for a diverse population.¹
- Creating interactive ways to address one's privilege and implicit biases is essential for future healthcare professionals. These students can benefit from more educational activities incorporated into curricula that target self-awareness of privilege.²
- Fostering a more inclusive environment can be achieved by increasing research-based approaches to counteract the health care disparities that exist.³
- IPE CAARES set out to create an Interprofessional Practice and Education (IPE) event regarding Curiosity, Accountability, Appreciation, Respect, Empathy, and Service (CAARES) to address these concerns to a group of participants in March 2023.

Methods

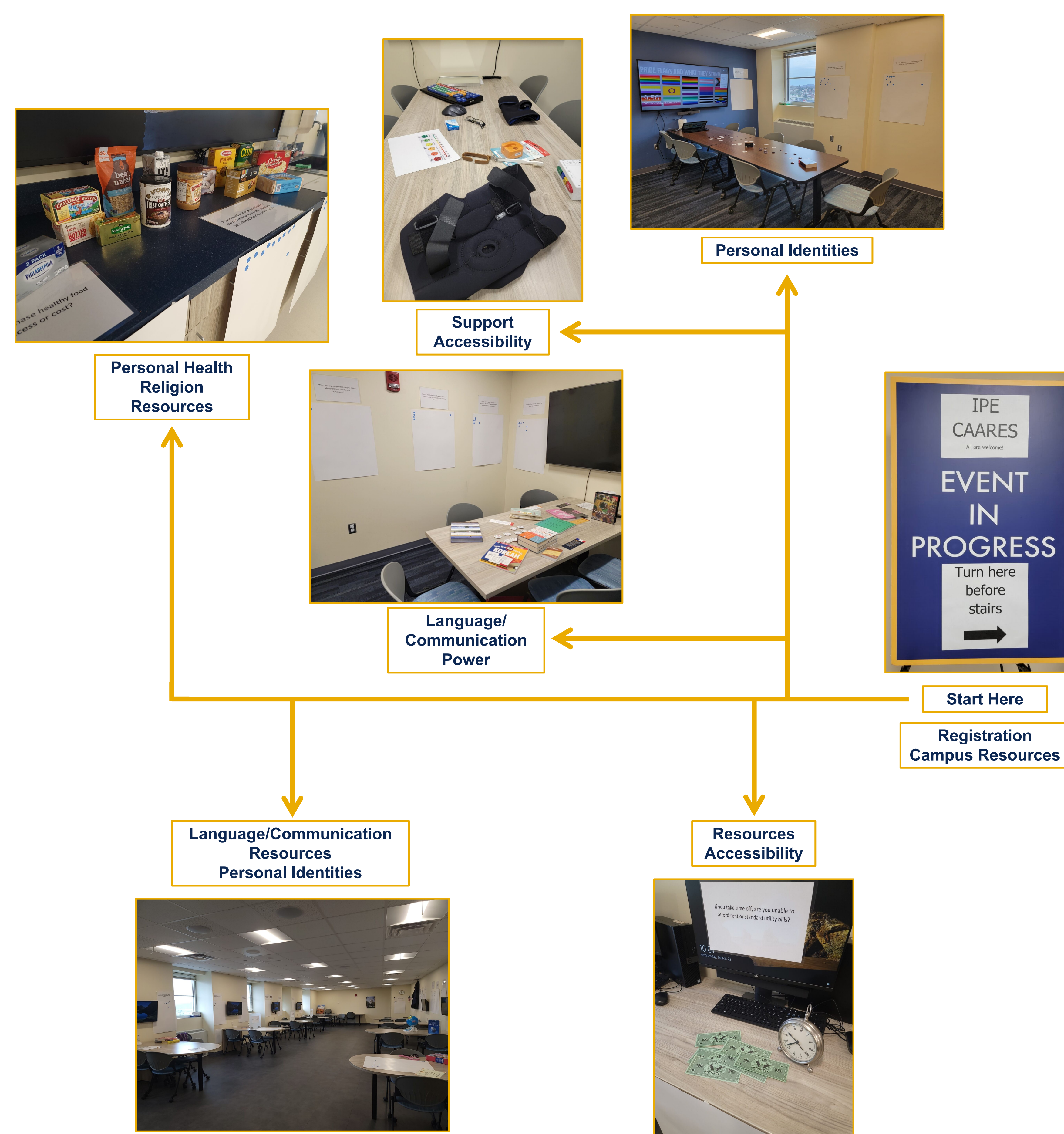
- The study was approved by the Institutional Review Board (IRB).
- Eighty-one statements were posed to students, staff, and faculty at the Health Sciences Campus (HSC).
- Statements were posted throughout small rooms with posterboards to record responses. (Table 1 provides examples).
- To anonymously answer, participants placed a sticker on the corresponding poster for any yes answer. Participants also had the option to answer electronically.
- Props were included in each room to explain or reinforce the statements presented, as shown in Figure 1.
- Organizers were spread throughout the event to address any questions.
- Participants were asked to complete an optional closing survey.
- Participants represented the Schools of Medicine, Dentistry, Public Health, Nursing, and Pharmacy.

Table 1. Statement Categories and Examples

Language/Communication	I am learning (or teaching) my courses in my primary language.
Religion	I have to make special requests to receive my religious holidays off from my professional environment or school.
Access/Resources	I have to rely on bottled water to ensure access to clean drinking water.
Personal Health	People assume my abilities or competencies based primarily on my physical appearance.
Identities	I have difficulty finding people in upper administration at my school or professional environment who look like me.
Power	I worry about criticism, rejection, or punishment when I openly express myself.
Support and Security	I can easily identify someone to help me if I began struggling financially.

Methods

Figure 1. Diagram of Event Setup



Results

- There were 204 individual HSC participants, including students, staff and faculty, in the March 2023 event, and 50 completed the optional closing survey.
- Over 80% of participants ranked the event as excellent or very good.
- Many commented that the event was enjoyable.
- It was noted that the event showcased the different areas of privileges in the cohort.
- Challenges faced by participants were also identified by the participants included facing including required use of bottled water (15%), lack of shared identities with peers and administration (12%), lack of access to health insurance (5%), and lack of courses being taught in their primary language (20%).

Results

Figure 2. Quotes from IPE CAARES Participants



Conclusions

- IPE CAARES event provoked awareness of individual privileges and revealed the current challenges fellow students, staff, and faculty are facing. It was well-received by most participants.
- Comments on the survey stated that the event was impactful for participants by helping them recognize their own privileges and creating empathy for those who experience life differently.
- The interactive interprofessional event can be easily replicated at other institutions.
- Healthcare professional schools need to implement ways to help students tackle their implicit biases and to become aware of their privilege and of the privilege of those around them so the next generation of healthcare professionals can provide exceptional patient care.
- Research in this area needs to continue so healthcare professional students are well equipped to provide excellent care to those of diverse background.

References

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Disclosure

Figure 1 and Figure 2 were used in a poster presentation for the 2023 Nexus Summit.