Innovative ESL Curriculum to Improve Vaccination Health Literacy and Confidence

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ESL (English as a Second Language) to Advance Health Literacy

• Two-fold learning process- strengthens language skills and health literacy simultaneously.
• An avenue to reach historically hard-to-reach populations, such as immigrants without documentation and elderly immigrants (Santos et al., 2014)
• Allows consideration of health information within context of daily life in a "culturally safe" environment (Taylor et al., 2008)
• Flexibility in health literacy instruction (Wagner 2019)
• Promoting health literacy interventions at both the individual and social level.
EducASIANs: Campus/Community Partnerships
Project Timeline

Oct - Dec (2020)
- Reviewing project goals, objectives and timeline.
- Presentations from academic partners and patients on health disparities.
- Familiarizing ourselves with needs of target students

Jan - Mar
- Draft lesson plan with materials and handouts
- Gather initial feedback from ESL providers
- Revise lesson plan prior to piloting

Apr - Jun
- Pilot Hep B and Vaccine lesson plans.
- Revise lesson plan based on feedback from ESL instructors
- Discussion of how to expand and sustain efforts.

Next steps
- Create COVID-19 vaccination, Dementia, and Alzheimer’s lesson plan.
- Adding resource list as part of the lesson plans.
- Recruit and train corporate employees and college students as volunteer ESL instructors.
Outcome & Impact

- Successful piloting from 3 ESL organizations, reaching ~200 students in 10 classes.
- Positive feedback from students, and prompted further discussion (in high intermediate/advanced level classes) about health equity and health disparities.
- Achieved better understanding of Hep B beyond the ESL classroom: One of our ESL providers said this project led her to start a conversation with her mother regarding their family’s Hep B and Liver Cancer history.
Questions?