

NEWS

University of South Carolina Lancaster
Lancaster, SC 29720



UNIVERSITY OF
South Carolina
LANCASTER

A Regional Palmetto College

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Tuesday, January 18, 2022

For more information, contact: Shana Dry

Phone: 803-313-7008; Email: drysf@sc.edu

A State Model for Campus-Community Health Partnerships

LANCASTER, SC (January 18, 2022) – The University of South Carolina Lancaster is becoming a state model for health. Building on its broad commitment to health and educational equity, the University has formalized a partnership with SC DHEC to offer campus space for a teen-friendly satellite site of the Lancaster County Health Department. This unique campus-community partnership is a first of its kind in the state of South Carolina.

Under the clinic name “*The Hubb*,” the Lancaster County Health Department will provide preventive health services for teens and young people, including college-related immunizations, birth control, and STI screenings, and community referrals. The clinic will be housed on the second floor of Hubbard Hall on the USCL campus, located at 476 Hubbard Drive. The preventive health clinic will open by appointment starting on January 20, 2022 by calling (855) 472-3432. It will operate on a regular basis on-campus on the third Thursday of each month.

“We are excited to be partnering with SC DHEC to provide much needed services to our own campus and also to young people throughout the community,” says Dr. Walt Collins, campus dean of the University of South Carolina Lancaster. “This partnership is an example of how students, faculty, and community partners can collaborate together to help young people reach their educational goals.”

A true win-win-win

Public health and nursing faculty at USC Lancaster looked closely at other college health partnerships throughout the state to learn how the campus could offer high-quality health services at a low cost. By collaborating with community health partners like the Lancaster County Health Department, USCL is able to leverage a network of highly-qualified healthcare providers and services without additional fees attached to tuition.

“This partnership will enable us to improve the health outcomes of our own student population and young people throughout the community,” said Dr. Leigh Pate, clinical assistant professor at USC Lancaster.

Recent studies have shown that although some college-age students have insurance coverage, concerns about high deductibles or out-of-pocket spending may prevent them from using their insurance to access preventive services. In addition, an unintended pregnancy is one of the primary reasons why young people delay or discontinue their pursuit of higher education. This campus clinic partnership seeks to address these concerns.

A strong stance of collaboration



This planning effort has been in the making for over three years and persisted despite the capacity challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Collaborative support was leveraged by local and statewide organizations, including: Fact Forward, the Arras Foundation, the Children’s Council, the Upper Midlands Rural Health Network, and South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control.

“The Foundation is proud to support the important work of The Hubb in supporting essential health, education, and wellness needs of young people,” said Susan DeVenny, President & CEO of the Arras Foundation. “The Hubb is a model for true, lasting collaboration: joining together to listen and prioritize the needs of these local young adults as we work to build a healthier community for all.”

In 2019, the Arras Foundation supported a site visit to a neighborhood teen wellness clinic in Spartanburg County, SC. As a result of this experience, students, faculty, and community partners realized that they were more prepared and ready to embark on creating teen-friendly clinic on campus than they had previously realized. A grant from Fact Forward, a statewide organization that supports adolescent health, enabled the coalition to catalyze this vision.

“There are so many partners who are standing strongly behind this clinic and believe in this work so deeply,” said Andrea Campbell, project coordinator for TRIO Opportunity Scholars Program at USC Lancaster. “It truly will be a game changer for students and the greater community.”

Designed for and by young people

From the initial planning stages to implementation, USCL students have informed the critical aspects of the campus clinic. Beyond participating in the Spartanburg site visit, students conducted an audit of available campus spaces to identify an ideal clinic location. Hubbard Hall Room 214 was available and seemed to check most of the needs of the DHEC staff and the unique needs of young people.

Students were also surveyed on the best name for the clinic. The clinic was named “*The Hubb*” in 2020 as a nod to its campus location on the second floor of Hubbard Hall. This name also lends itself to describing the strong network of community linkages and referrals that can be made to increase youth access to care. Student feedback also helped inform the clinic logo, which is the college mascot’s Lancer shield and a symbolic gesture towards protecting one’s health. Clinical artwork and marketing materials are comprised of USCL’s campus colors of blue and yellow.

A student outreach intern was hired in 2021 to assist in setting up the clinic and getting the word out among students. “It has been fun to learn alongside USCL faculty and meet DHEC nurses who care so much,” says Caroline Milhorn, a freshman at USC Lancaster and an outreach assistant for the project. “College is a time to learn and grow into adulthood, and learning how to navigate the healthcare system is an important step.”

Next steps include making sure teens and youth-serving professionals throughout the community are aware and know how to access this new teen-friendly resource.

###



Pictured above: USCL student Caroline Milhorn and Lancaster County Health Department staff show off the clinical features of **The Hubb**.