

A World Fit For Kids! Builds Pipeline of Youth Health Workers – Posted 7.1.10

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The Fit for SuccessSM program, created by A World Fit For Kids!, has been preparing inner-city high school students and young adults with the job skills, work experience and knowledge of healthy behaviors to become active advocates for health and well-being in their own communities since 1994.

This work readiness, healthy behaviors and personal empowerment program essentially provides a foundation for developing a pipeline of much-needed minority personnel to staff America's afterschool programs, and ultimately become the workforce for health centers, clinics and other health-related jobs. In fact, while members of under-represented racial and ethnic groups make up about 25% of the U.S. population, their representation among health professionals is only about 10%, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Fit for SuccessSM has proven results among predominantly Latino students. 94% of high school students who completed the training and internship program since 2003 have graduated—primarily from a high school with a 49.5% graduation rate—and are equipped with the foundational skills and knowledge they need to pursue a health-related career.