Health & Wellness Services: Health Educator Proposal
Health Promotion & Preventive Services (HPPS)

How this position supports student priorities:

In the spring 2009 Student Services Fee (SSF) Survey (N= 3,123), which polled over 3,000 students, 70% of respondents cited funding for health and wellness as being moderately to very important. Moreover, among fifteen initiatives put forward to students, health and wellness was ranked third, closely aligning this proposal with existing student priorities.

Anticipated impact:

This health educator position will allow for a range of health promotion and prevention activities, including 1) sleep, stress and mental health issues, 2) public health programming related to the prevention of infectious diseases (e.g. colds, flu, sexually transmitted infections, meningitis) and student safety, as well as, 3) the coordination of the Farmers’ Market at the UA.

Currently, the UA Campus Health Service supports several of these areas through its Health Promotion and Preventive Services (HPPS) unit, but the need for additional public health education exceeds the capacity of the HPPS, particularly since Campus Health has lost the availability of a full-time health educator. Through the support of the student services fee, this position will allow new programmatic possibilities to emerge that can more fully address the health, wellness and safety issues that are relevant to the UA student population.

Last, with student enrollment expected to increase, the need to provide quality, population-based health programming will only become more important. It is our belief that this single position represents a unique opportunity to significantly enhance the overall health of thousands of UA students.

How outcomes of this project will be measured:

Outcomes will principally be measured through process evaluation of the position itself. These will include the number public health messages written, presentations given, classes led and Farmers’ Markets coordinated. Additionally, the Health Promotion and Preventive Services (HPPS) department of Campus Health tracks student health behaviors through the annual Health & Wellness Survey each spring semester. Data have shown that student health behaviors are positively associated with health funding, where students show better health outcomes when funding for UA-specific health funding increases.