

Washington Global Health Alliance Ambassador Program

Getting young people involved in improving global health means focusing on high school students. With that goal in mind, the Washington Global Health Alliance Ambassador (WGHAA) program was developed to introduce global health into four Washington State high schools with teachers and students who can most benefit from learning about global health challenges.

Teachers and administrators from four pilot schools are taking part in the program, funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Schools include Blaine High School in the Blaine School District at the Canadian border, Health Sciences and Human Services High School (HS3) in the Highline School District in SeaTac, Cleveland High School in the Seattle School District and Toppenish High School in the Yakima Valley.

Teachers partner with WGHA organizations to create interdisciplinary curriculum for 11th grade science, mathematics and social studies students, with the goal of meeting state education objectives within the context of global health. The teachers are taking part in intensive training at Seattle Biomedical Research Institute, and Washington State University offers graduate-level credit for the participants. "What makes this project so exciting is that teachers will be working shoulder to shoulder with Washington's most distinguished global health experts," said Nona Clifton, WGHA project manager.