



A Seamless, Accessible, 21st Century Global Classroom

Tapping into the learning styles of “Millennials” can benefit public health education

A Rapidly Expanding Knowledge Base Facilitates Team-Based Learning

Students born since the 1980s have experienced technology in education from their earliest days. Requiring virtually no learning curve, the Millennial—or Net Generation—learns differently from preceding generations. Understanding the interaction of curricula, technology and team-based learning harnesses the resources of these technologically-attuned minds, discovering out-of-the-classroom approaches to training future generations of public health professionals worldwide.



Expanding the Educational Toolbox

Relatively low-cost technology is becoming more and more accessible. This has resulted in an expanding knowledge base—one which is being shared worldwide. Through active team-learning, innovative techniques and expanding information can easily be incorporated into the Millennial learning style, employing skills that are utilized worldwide by groups and individuals.

This Gillings Innovation Lab aims to provide educators with a new set of tools for developing and training public health professionals. The development of a “global seamless classroom” will yield a greater understanding of the problems and promises of integrating distance and global education.

Initially, this Lab will explore a variety of low-cost, technology-enabled approaches to working with individuals and teams around public health subject matter. In the long-run, findings from this effort will fortify a foundation for educators to better use emerging technologies to expand the public health workforce around the world. Through literature reviews and “horizon-scanning,” emphasis will be on pedagogical advances, expanded curricula, new insights and fresh ideas to address the needs of the 21st century learner.

Leadership



William N. Zelman, PhD, will lead this Lab from the UNC department of health policy and management, which has over 30 years of experience in distance education innovation. Faculty across all departments in the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health will also incorporate their expertise in this Lab. Research and field work

will involve tech-savvy and committed Millennial students, both residential and distance.



GOAL

To strengthen public health education by reflecting the changing skill sets and learning methodologies of the new generation of public health professionals.

PARTNERS

UNC departments of epidemiology, maternal and child health, nutrition, environmental sciences and engineering, biostatistics, health behavior and health education and the public health leadership program.

IMPACT!

Meeting the Future Head On

The UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health is committed to meeting its educational mission with an increasingly Millennial and Millennial-influenced workforce. This new generation incorporates a technology-savvy, collaborative approach to learning that will inform future trends in public health education.

