

## **The Power of Partnership**

Partnerships among IUPUI schools enable students to serve and learn about Canali Mexico

**Date:** February 03, 2009

**Duration:** 3:34

### **Transcript**

[A. Martinez] The Canali Program started as a community project where a member of the community wanted to bring services to a group of rural villages in Mexico, and so this lady, Juana, who also happens to be faculty of IUPUI invited people from the School of Medicine to come down for a week to provide direct services to treat patients and have clinics. From that the School of Medicine realized that health needs were beyond what the medicine could do on their own. So they invited the School of Dentistry, the School of Medicine, the School of Social Work, and the partnership grew, initially, under this model of service provision.

As faculty started to get involved with it, then we realized that there was a power behind it, and this purely service project could be turned into a service- learning project.

Mexican universities have a long-standing tradition of service. It's under a different model. There is a mandatory service component for all students that go to public universities in Mexico and private, too, actually. After you finish your bachelor's program you have a one-year commitment to provide service to other communities in Mexico. It's called "social service year". So you work in an under-served area and provide those services, but is seen more if you would compare it to something it would be more of a practicum. Students are using what they learn and applying it to work in areas that are otherwise under-served.

There is always something that is gained. The value of volunteering, the value of working with your community, but there is also a true service-learning experience. There is also a learning side where they realize when they're down there that maybe their initial motive or reasons were service oriented. But they were learning about a group of people, about communities that are represented in the places where they're going to come back.

They're learning about Latinos, they're learning about rural Mexico. When they come back to Indiana, or the place where they are going to practice, they're going to treat these kinds of patients and have interactions with people who come from those areas.

We brought ideas about community environment and the ideas about partnership, and we learn a lot from the community. And so i think the biggest benefit for the community has been to recognize their own assets and to recognize that by partnering with people they can achieve more. The power of organization, the power of community at the end, has been the biggest benefit, more than many of the direct services that we can provide.