INTRODUCTION: The Center for Global Education Initiatives (CGEI) at the University of Maryland Baltimore's (UMB), formerly the Global Health Resource Center, was established in 2005 under the NIH Fogarty Center’s “Framework Program for Global Health” grant program to build interprofessional global health capacity on graduate campuses. CGEI provides UMB faculty and students from across the seven UMB professional schools (Medicine, Law, Social Work, Nursing, Dentistry, Pharmacy and the Graduate School) with a variety of mechanisms that encourage joint scholarship, educational opportunities, and fellowship.

METHOD: CGEI has been remarkably successful in creating a platform for faculty and students to interact and develop multidisciplinary research themes and training programs in global health through several ways:

1. Developing an interprofessional experiential learning program
2. Global Health Interprofessional Council
3. Student Global Advisory Council
4. Connecting global and local programs

OUTCOMES: CGEI implemented a pilot interprofessional program in 2010, involving one student from each school in a six-week research program in Malawi, led by faculty members of different disciplines. After four years of interprofessional educational success, the program expanded into a broader model; in 2014 and 2015, 78 students were supported in 18 different projects in 11 countries. Primarily through UMB’s Global Health Interprofessional Council (GHIC), faculty members are brought together from within the University as well as with international collaborators to formulate research proposals that go across disciplines and reframe solutions for global health challenges. Faculty and students return to UMB to share their experiences with their peers which continues the excitement and demand for meaningful interprofessional experiential opportunities.

UMB has an active global health interprofessional faculty council of 34 members which convenes monthly to discuss CGEI activities and to assist in advancing coordinated campus efforts around global health by sharing ideas, resources, and collaborating on programs and events. GHIC members participate in the selection process for CGEI’s interprofessional experiential programs by reviewing and evaluating faculty and student proposals and applications. GHIC members strengthen the network of their professional peers and connect them with the Center which leads to the development of cutting-edge ideas and proposals that span across disciplines. Additionally, CGEI has been able to effectively connect students to faculty members interested in global health across campus.

CGEI established a Student Global Advisory Council that brings together representatives from each school’s global health interest group and meets on a monthly basis. Now, the global health interest groups coordinate substantive events and opportunities to encourage interprofessional fellowship. Representatives of the Student Global Advisory Council also attend monthly GHIC meetings and are able to advocate for student interests.

CGEI has recognized the value of uniting the university’s global health efforts with its community engagement efforts. CGEI works with global health and community public health faculty and students to share ideas bi-directionally and has promoted this idea nationally through conferences and publications.

GOING FORWARD: CGEI continues to develop and evolve to support UMB faculty and to meet the increasing demand by students for meaningful interprofessional and experiential global health learning opportunities. We move forward to increase the awareness and applicability of global health to domestic community health.