Leaders of the John A. Burns School of Medicine gathered off-campus on Wednesday, October 7, to begin drafting a mission statement for the school. The retreat began with teams of department chairs and administrators listing words that might describe our vision and our values.

As you can see from the poster at left, the words suggested to describe JABSOM’s “vision” were powerful—and not always what you might expect. “Magic” held a spot, along with “research excellence”, “driving the economy”, and a “blending” of academic disciplines and healing traditions.

The values were topped by “communication” and “respect”, but included “diversity”, “integrity”, and “ohana”.

Some of the group exercises involved piecing together words to draft initial mission statements. (See photo, bottom right, showing Dr. Steven Ward, sitting on the floor.) And there was plenty of laughter, which was appropriate since “fun” also made the list. (In the photo, bottom left, Dr. Naleen Andrade and Dr. David Curb share a laugh.)

“This is just the launching of our project,” said Dean Jerris Hedges at the end of the day-long session. “We are not done. Part of our task will be to make sure what went on here expands to the rest of the school, as we all work together to develop our objectives, based upon our shared values and our shared vision.”

Dr. Hedges said the process will help the school better communicate what it does in and for the State. “Because of our training relationships throughout the community-based hospitals, we are fairly diffuse, we are not well-defined in one geographic location nor do we have one central mission, we have multiple missions,” Hedges explained. “But I think we can begin to crystalize the message a little better and to resonate that message as we move through this process.”

Dr. Hedges said a well thought-out mission statement will also help in recruiting faculty and staff who qualify with needed skill sets and those who share in the goals we wish to accomplish together.
Submit news to Communications Director Tina Shelton at uhmed@hawaii.edu. Watch http://jabsom.hawaii.edu/ for updates!

---IN THE NEWS---

“Group effort targets islanders for weight loss”, Honolulu Star-Bulletin, 10/10/08.
JABSOM’s Keawe Kaholokula, PhD, (Department of Native Hawaiian Health) is principal investigator (five-year, $2.5 million grant) for a community-based group effort to improve diet among Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, and it is working.


“UH Psychiatry Professor Earns Award”, Honolulu Star-Bulletin, 10/9/08.
JABSOM’s Dr. Naleen Andrade (Chair, Psychiatry) to receive national Robert Cancro Academic Leadership Award for excellence in child and adolescent psychiatry, from the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry.


And, JABSOM’s Dr. Kalani Brady continues to answer questions for ABC NEWS’ medical unit over the internet on abcnews.com. The latest question was about centipede bites.

IMI HO‘OLA 2008 -2009

The Imi Ho'ola Program is selling t-shirts to fund their service learning project at Kalaupapa on Moloka‘i next March. The shirts are $15.00 each, or 3 for $40. Order forms on the 3rd floor of MEB (Bulletin Board) or contact Sasha Sullivan at tsuyuko3@gmail.com.

H.O.M.E. Needs Donations for Halloween Carnivals for keiki

The Homeless Outreach and Medical Education project, JABSOM’S volunteer medical mission for the homeless, is planning Halloween carnivals again this year in Wai‘anae and Kaka‘ako. They’re looking for cash, gift certificates, candy, healthy snacks, costumes, decorations, prizes, small toys; Also: face painting & balloon animals. Email Contact: hawaiihomeproject.uh@gmail.com.