



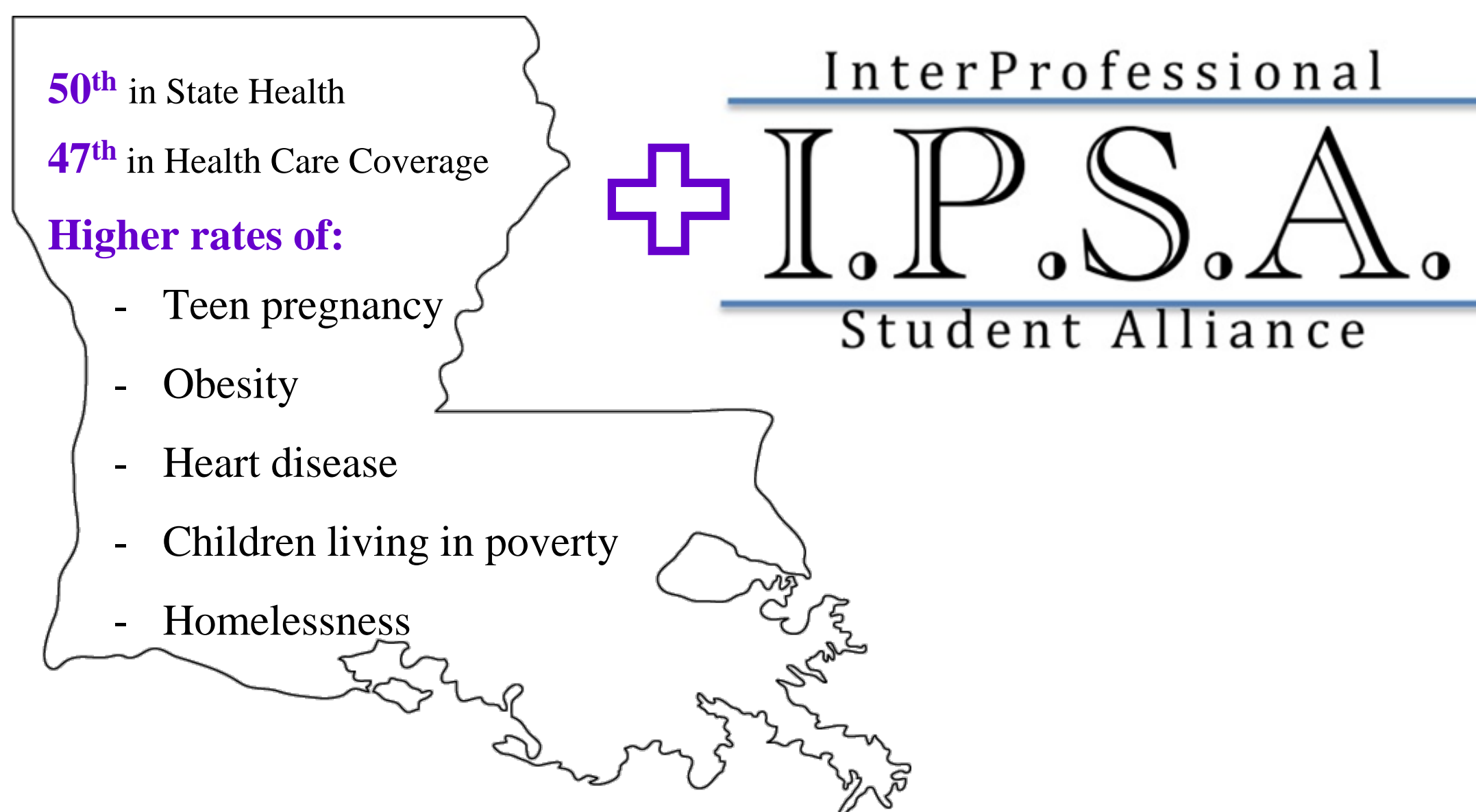
# Transforming Education From the Bottom Up: The Interprofessional Student Alliance

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## Introduction

### Background:

- New Orleans is home to some of the most pronounced health disparities in the United States.
- New Orleans is also home to LSU Health Sciences Center (LSUHSC), the major source of health care providers for the region.
- This juxtaposition between a need for increased access to health care and close proximity to the area's largest health care institution inspired LSUHSC students to start community service projects that address some of New Orleans' most challenging public health issues.
- LSUHSC students realized that they could make the largest impact and provide the best care by taking an interprofessional approach.
- As a result, students founded the Interprofessional Student Alliance (IPSA) in order to better facilitate, coordinate, and implement these student-run service projects.



### Objectives:

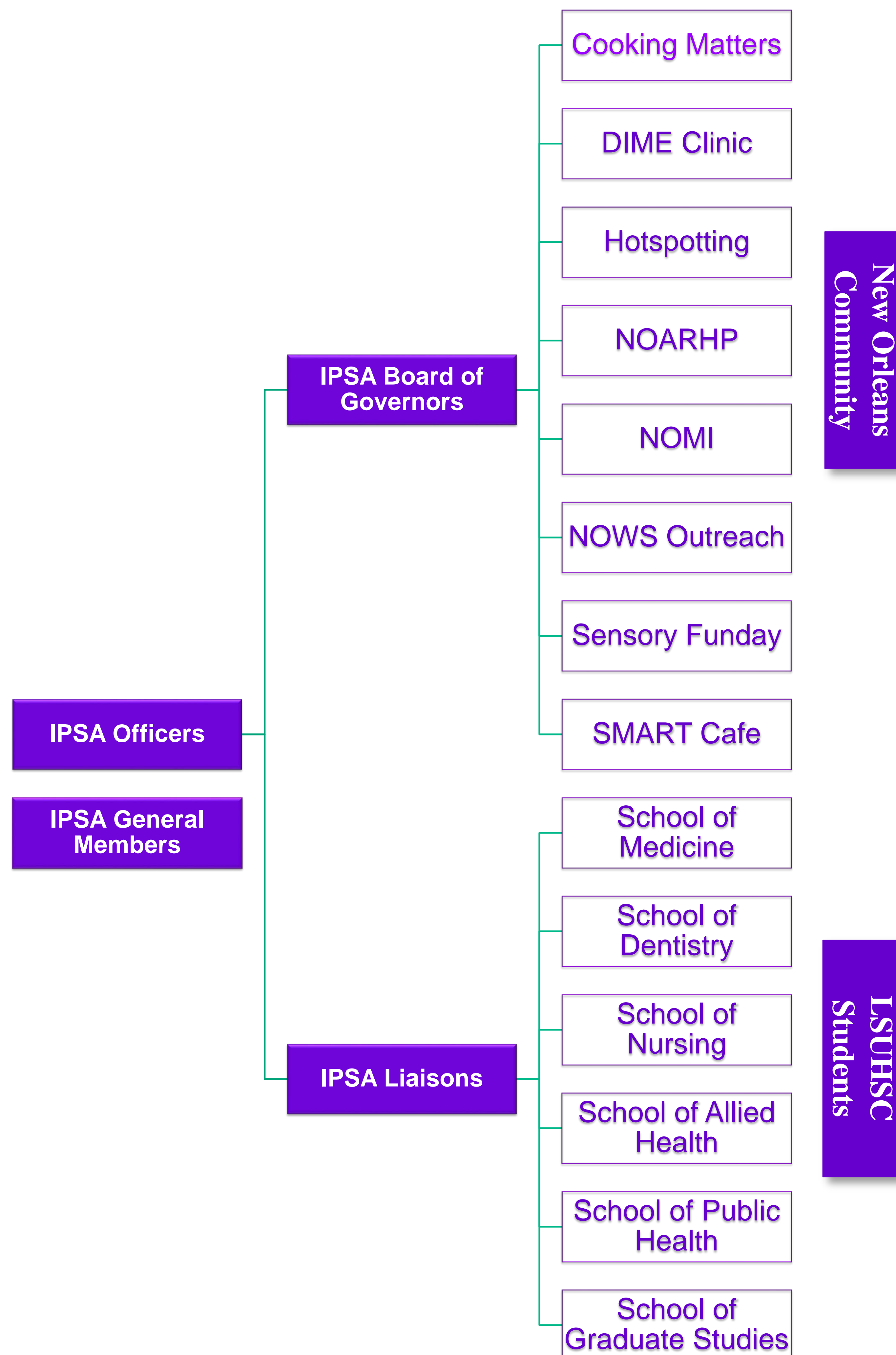
- 1) To describe how students at the six LSUHSC professional schools formed the Interprofessional Student Alliance (IPSA)
- 2) To outline the process students underwent to create interprofessional and community-based healthcare delivery teams
- 3) To encourage interprofessional communication, collaboration, and education at the student level

## IPSA

The **Interprofessional Student Alliance (IPSA)** was founded to serve as a student-run idea "incubator" that provides interprofessional leadership development and technical assistance for student-initiated service projects for underserved populations.



## IPSA Organizational Hierarchy



## Methods

### Interprofessional Leadership Development:

**Workshops** – the IPSA Leadership Board organizes monthly leadership workshops to promote positive collaboration between professional programs. Past workshops have focused on budgeting, negotiation strategies, conflict resolution, solving old problems in new ways, and personality assessments (Myers-Briggs) as they relate to professional leadership styles.

**Team-Building Service Day** – the IPSA Leadership Board plans an annual service day, such as Habitat for Humanity, to garner the spirit of community service in conjunction with collaboration.

**Interprofessional Education Day** – the IPSA Leadership Board and the LSUHSC Center of Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Practice host a day-long event for all incoming first-year students to introduce the culture of interprofessionalism.

**Interprofessional Student-Run Organizations** – IPSA advertises for any student-run organization on campus that promotes interprofessionalism regardless of a service component.

**Interprofessionalism Awards** – two awards, one for participation and one for leadership, incentivize and recognize students who are involved in IPSA.

### Community Service Project Support:

**Volunteer Base** – IPSA unites the service projects under one name due to a unique feature they all share: each project is run and staffed by a team of interprofessional student volunteers. IPSA encourages its general members to become consistently involved with the service projects through email, workshops, its website, and two IPSA awards.

**Funding** – IPSA and its service projects are currently funded by LSUHSC, an AOA Service Leadership grant, and LSUHSC Foundation donations directed to specific service projects.

**Visibility** – IPSA, through its general membership and its on/off-campus relationships, aims to maximize advertisement of each project's events and initiatives.

## Results

### Interprofessional Leadership Outcomes

- 8 leadership development workshops (from inception in 2015 through fall 2016)
- 59 leadership roles within 8 community service projects
- 32 leadership roles between IPSA Leadership Board, Board of Governors, and Liaison positions
- 2 awards to incentivize participation and leadership among students across all health professions (1. IPSA Award for Interprofessional Distinction, granted to students who have performed a specific amount of service hours, graded to program length; 2. IPSA Leadership Award, granted to students who have demonstrated leadership above and beyond their designated role within IPSA)

### Community Service Project Outcomes

- Students from all 6 LSUHSC professional schools involved
- 890 volunteer roles within 8 community service projects
- Encouraged faculty to add interprofessional education experiences into curricula
- Some projects are now integrated into school and program curricula (Cooking Matters, DIME Clinic, SMART Cafe)

## Recommendations

- 1) Increase the number and scope of student-driven interprofessional service projects nationally
- 2) Establish IPSA-type organizations in more university settings
- 3) Publicize the value of interprofessionalism in health care
- 4) Determine and implement incentives to encourage participation of students from multiple disciplines