



LIMERICK DECLARATION TUFH 2018 COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT FOR HEALTH

The participants of The Network: TUFH 2018 annual meeting in Limerick endorse the following declaration:

Whereas,

- Social determinants of health are best addressed to achieve health equity with active engagement by community partners to fully acknowledge their concerns and conditions;
- Intersectoral connection and partnership among stakeholders in health and other sectors is a pillar of social accountability and is essential for better health;
- Health Professional Schools are responsible for preparing future generations of health workers to address the needs of populations in society, particularly the marginalized ones, through community-engaged, interprofessional learning and responsible research and this is the essence of social responsibility;
- Populations that have health workers from their own communities have better health outcomes due to improved access and appropriate and flexible health services, and;
- Students can be an important part of the change process.

We declare that:

- Empowerment implies listening and shared decision-making, with an emphasis on communication and partnership, without which empowerment is not possible.
- When people identify and address their own health problems, more sustainable solutions that work for both individuals and communities are likely to emerge.
- Engaging with and learning from communities to establish priorities for education, research and service will contribute to holding governments, health services, health professionals, and academic institutions accountable to the communities they serve,
- Health worker educational programs should recruit students and faculty from underrepresented sectors and provide adequate experiences with members of these sectors in the curriculum including significant portions of the curriculum delivered in and with communities.
- Health worker educational programs should actively promote diversity, inclusion, and equity.
- We have a strategic opportunity to expand the dialogue around health to sectors of education, finance, labor, infrastructure, law, the food industry and immigration and ensure that investments in the health sector and workforce better contribute to health equity and shared prosperity.
- Student voices should be included in the change process.