Youth Substance Use Prevention Program Evaluations: Partnership with a Community Non-Profit Organization

**Clusters:** Health and Human Enrichment Cluster  
Education, Democracy and Social Change Cluster  

**Students:** 18 Master’s Level Counselor Education and School Psychology Students

**Activities**
- Student groups enrolled in the winter term course, COS070 Research Design in the Helping Professions, partnered with CADY to develop program evaluation instruments for specific CADY programs.
- Students chose a CADY program of interest and conducted a thorough literature review to identify the societal problem addressed by the program.
- Student groups defined the specific CADY program and provided a detailed description of program methodology.
- Groups identified and operationalized at least one variable to be measured as outcome data based on the literature review.
- Groups developed or identified an evaluation instrument for CADY to gather data and assess outcomes for the specific program.

**Student Outcomes**

**Current Outcomes**
- Students demonstrated steps in designing program evaluation.
- Students explained their complex understanding of operationalizing variables.
- Students identified elements for selecting and/or creating evaluation instruments.
- Several student groups chose to submit a proposal of their program evaluation project to the Spring 2017 Showcase of Excellence at Plymouth State University.

**Future Outcomes:**
- Students will utilize program evaluation skills in future professional work as school counselors, school psychologists, and clinical mental health counselors.
- Students will submit a presentation proposal of their project to the 2018 National Evidence Based School Counseling Conference in New York City.

**CADY Outcomes**
- CADY will utilize the program evaluation instruments for each program to assess program outcomes.