

Implementation Science Capacity Building through a National Scholars Program for Researchers and Practitioners in Cancer Prevention and Control

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BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

- Building capacity of researchers and practitioners in the dissemination and implementation (D&I) of evidence-based interventions is needed to improve cancer prevention and control and translate cancer research into timely practice (Ramanadhan et al., 2018).
- In recognition of the need to increase the pipeline of scholars focused on D&I science, the CDC-funded Cancer Prevention and Control Research Network (CPCRN; www.cpcrn.org) developed a Scholars Program (Friedman et al., 2021).
- This poster describes the program, evaluation logic model and findings, and recommendations for improvement.

WHO ARE THE SCHOLARS?

- We received 24 scholar applications
- Using rubric and review criteria, 20 scholars were selected for the inaugural year of the program
- 10 selected scholars were graduate students, 3 were postdoctoral fellows, 4 were faculty researchers, and 3 were practitioners
- 65% identified as White, 30% as Asian, and 5% as Mexican-American
- 55% were affiliated with a school of public health, 30% with medicine, 10% with nursing, and 5% with liberal arts and sciences

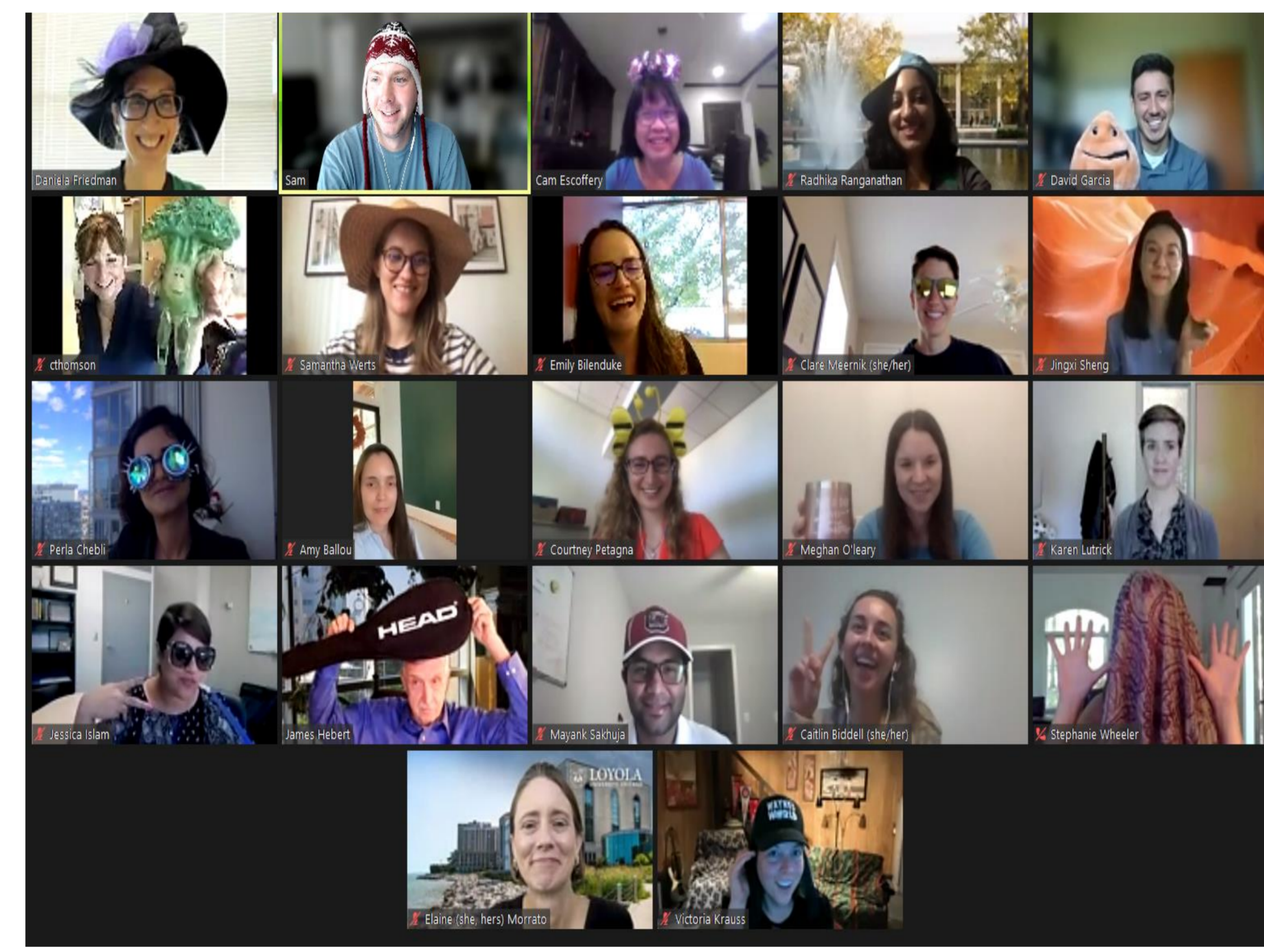
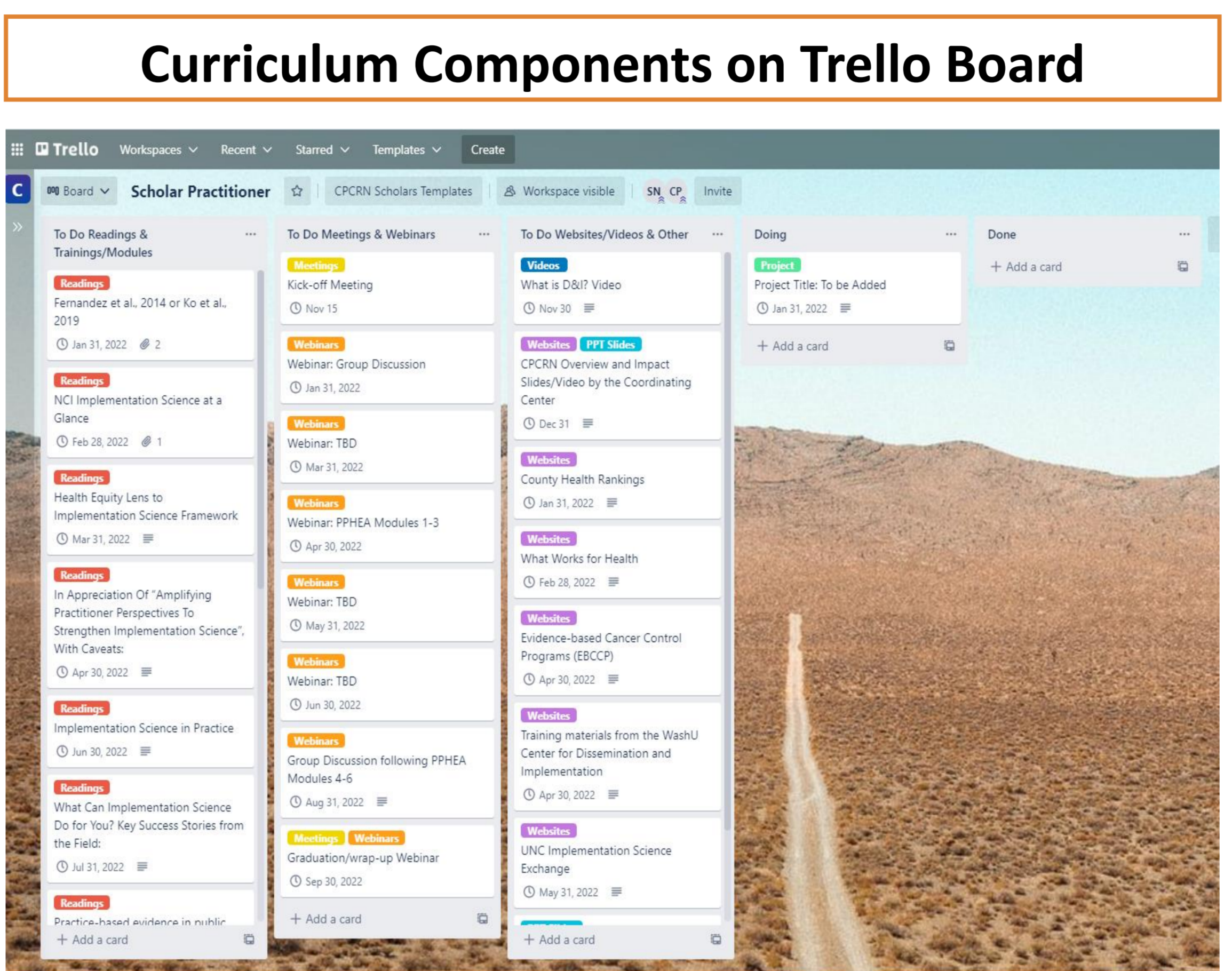
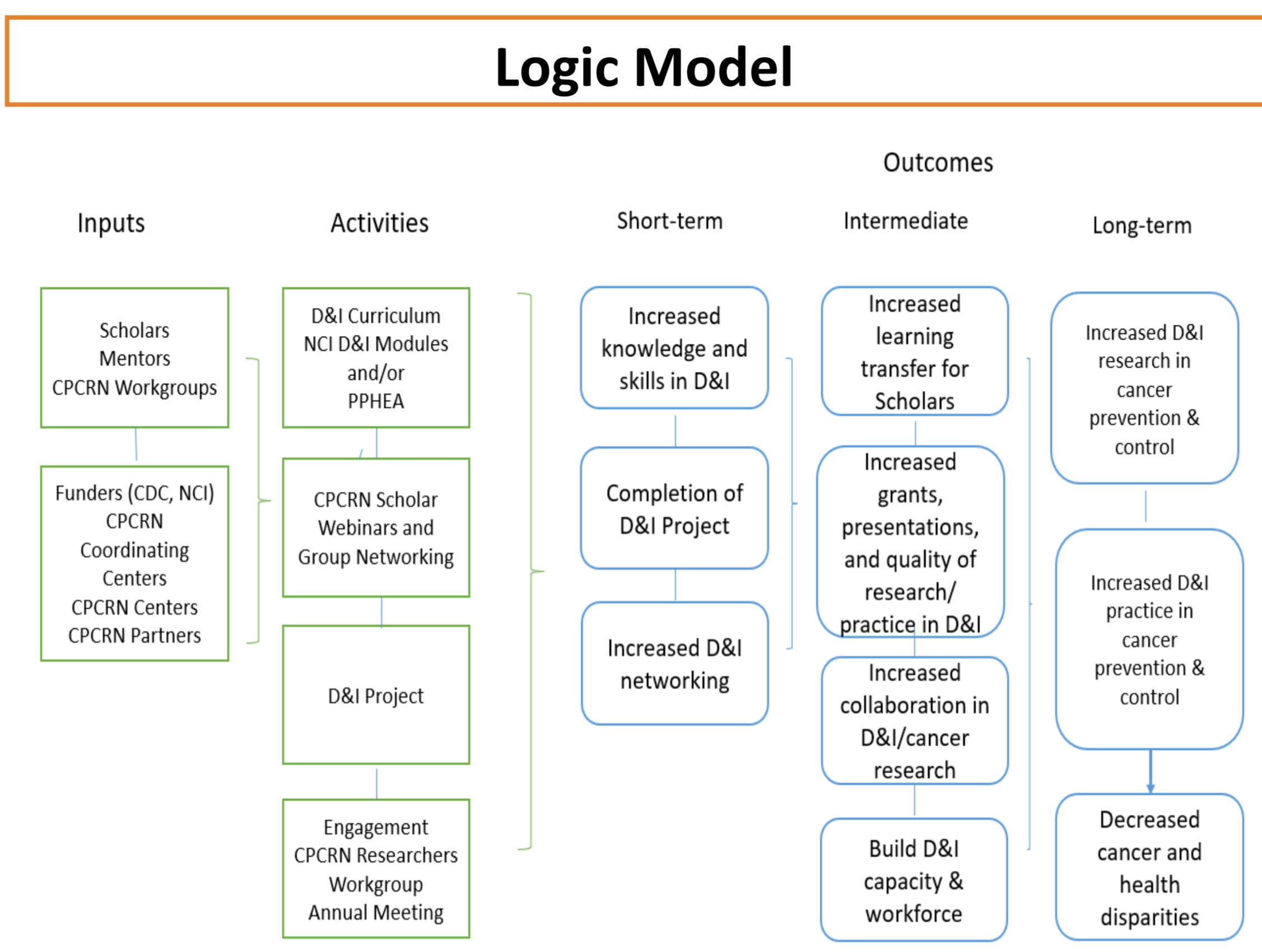
PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

- Interviews with 16 potential scholars were conducted via Zoom across 4 CPCRN Centers to help gather information for development of the training program
- 4 interviews were with assistant professors, 1 with a postdoctoral fellow, 8 with PhD students, 2 with undergraduates, and 1 with a program manager
- Interviewees expressed interest in participating in order to:
 - Increase D&I knowledge
 - Connect with others in the CPCRN network
 - Produce scholarly deliverables
 - Obtain skills to teach others about D&I

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TRAINING COMPONENTS, METHODOLOGY AND FINDINGS



More Program Exit Survey Results

- What did you enjoy about the program?
- Networking
 - Workshops/Webinars
 - Training Modules
 - Exposure to different focus areas
 - Getting involved with workgroups
- What needs to be improved?
- More live, applied lectures – example topic: applying theory to implementation
 - Greater opportunity to interact with scholars & CPCRN members
 - Additional support for publication and presentation development
 - Mentor/Scholar pairing process

Self-rated D&I Competencies from Baseline & Exit Survey (18 Scholars; Means range 1-5)

Survey Item / Category of Items	Pre-program means	Post-program means	P values
How would you rate your overall level of experience with dissemination and implementation science?	4.39	4.56	0.269
Section A: Definition, Background, and Rationale	1.58	1.86	<0.001
Section B: Theory and Approaches	1.39	1.73	<0.001
Section C: Design and Analysis	1.37	1.73	<0.001
Section D: Practice-Based Considerations	1.48	1.87	<0.001

Exit Interview Themes (16 Scholars; 10 Mentors)

- Scholars**
- Learning about CPCRN and implementation science work
 - Engagement with CPCRN workgroups and other Scholars and/or cancer control researchers
 - Connect to extensive network of researchers in the network
 - Better understanding of D&I science and terminology
 - Benefited from examples of how to conduct D&I research and specifically how to integrate community engagement, cancer prevention and control, and implementation science
- Mentors**
- Had opportunity to work with colleagues, staff members, and students in a new capacity about cancer control and implementation science
 - Consulted with their mentee about research project
 - Trained the next generation of D&I scientists

REFERENCES

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IMPLICATIONS FOR D&I TRAINING

- Make concerted effort to recruit practitioner scholars to expand national D&I capacity building; we are doing so with the support of CPCRN partners and federal agency partners
- Enhance enrollment of diverse trainees to better align with cancer disparities in cancer burden across the United States
- Keep it engaging and applied: Scholars valued learning about the CPCRN; engaging with CPCRN workgroups, researchers, and each other; and they gained an understanding of D&I terminology and examples of research and applied projects
- Approach used for development of this program and lessons learned can inform processes for other programs preparing the research and practice workforce in D&I science

CONCLUSION

- CPCRN Scholars Program is a multi-component training program to increase knowledge and skills of health professionals related to D&I for cancer control
- Continued goal is to build the pipeline of translational researchers and health professionals and enhance the capacity of public health and clinical practitioners working in cancer control
- Program hopes to catalyze D&I research across the United States and have results that will impact cancer-related health disparities

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