

## Leadership Connection 2018 (15-18 September)

### Supporting Senior Nursing Students Transition to Lifelong Researchers

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A Nursing Research course is an essential beginning for introducing students to evidence-based practice. As nurses, a lifelong expectation is that to improve and provide the best possible care to patients, one must utilize basic efforts in reviewing and applying evidence to guide decision/practice. The impression that research was not a skill, therefore; not an important course was identified as a conceptual problem with nursing students. With that information, a change in the nursing research course was implemented. The new mission of the nursing research course was to have the students to experience the real research process. This writing and speaking intensive course not only introduced methodology of investigation, including evaluation of existing and on-going research studies in nursing and health care but also aided the students in combining theoretical and empirical knowledge in developing evidenced-based nursing research. Initiate scientific and creative methods of problem solving to explore, evaluate, and select solutions to challenging research situations were identified in the beginning as barriers.

Students were challenged to start the research process from the beginning, utilizing the PICO process, and developed an individual research project. This included, the students' learning the steps in developing a research proposal, the varies types of sources, and skills recommended for literature reviews. A systematic review had to be completed. A local librarian from the university conducted a workshop on accessibility of resources and databases utilizations. Students were required to peer-review each step of the process. The results of the project, the students presented a poster presentation at the end of the course during the annual "Excellence in Nursing" day sponsored by the nursing department and the local chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing. The research process, samples of the project at various points- at the beginning, midway, and the final project will be presented. The growth of the students will be illustrated along with the students' appreciation of the research process to evidence-based nursing practice will also be presented.

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#### **Title:**

Supporting Senior Nursing Students Transition to Lifelong Researchers

#### **Keywords:**

Evidence-based practice., Nursing Research and Research process

#### **References:**

Marquis, B. & Huston, C. (2018). *Leadership roles and management functions in nursing. Theory and application.* (9th ed.). Lippincott: New York, NY

Polit, D., & Beck, C. T. (2018). *Essentials of nursing research: Appraising evidence for nursing practice* (9th ed.). Philadelphia: Lippincott.

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#### **Abstract Summary:**

Results of senior nursing students' works utilizing the research process from the beginning, use of the PICO process, literature reviews and development of individual research projects will be presented. This will include, the students' learning steps, and examples of their projects.

## **Content Outline:**

Introduction

A. The purpose is to showcase works completed by seniors' nursing students in nursing research.

B. Research versus Skills

Main Point #1: Changes in the nursing research course

Supporting point #1: Examples of the old versus new course content

a) Teaching PICO

b) Guidelines for selecting the problem

Supporting point #2: Literature Review

a) Sources

b) Accessibility

Main Point #2: Selecting the Framework

Supporting point #1

a) Theoretical

b) Conceptual

Supporting point #2 Putting it Together

1. a) Developing relationship
2. b) Supporting relationship
3. c) Selecting Method
4. d) Selecting Analysis type

III. Conclusion

1. Examples of Final Proposal and Project
2. Learning Outcomes and Evaluations Example

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**Professional Experience:** Associate Professor; Helen Fuld Fellow; Presentations: International Rural Health Congress; New York-Using Newman System Theory in a Rural Setting; National Rural Health Association Convention-Newman System Theory: Students View; Publication: Online Journal of Nursing Informatics: Nursing Students Perception of their use and knowledge of Computer assisted instruction (July, 2003). I am currently the faculty advisor for Pi Tau Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau.

**Author Summary:** Dr. Sellars received her MSN in nursing from the Arkansas State University and her ED.D. from the University of Memphis and currently work at University of Tennessee at Martin as a Nursing Professor.