Catalyze Your Chapter Through Program Development

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Objectives

1. The learner will be able to formulate a plan of at least one program that can be offered by their chapter within the next year to foster membership engagement.
2. The learner will be able to discuss the importance of program development on connecting and collaborating with members.

Purpose

- Cultivate future leaders and ensure an active sustainable chapter through various activities including:
  - career development boot camp
  - nursing skills boot camp
  - evidence-based practice/continuing education dinner meeting
  - newsletter
- Nurture the uniqueness of each member and provide opportunities for members to share knowledge, service, mentoring, and leadership.

Career Development Boot Camp

- Created based on feedback from new members who needed guidance with writing resumes, practicing interviewing skills, and other job search skills.
- A 3 hour drop-in program for senior nursing students (members and non-members).
- Topics include:
  - resume writing
  - job search tips
  - preparing for interviews
  - graduate school
  - getting the most from your preceptor
  - preparing for the first day on the job
- An informal way for students to network with faculty, talent acquisition specialists from local hospitals, graduate students, new graduates, clinicians, and nurse leaders from various areas of nursing.

Nursing Skills Boot Camp

- Developed for nursing students before they begin clinical.
- Nursing faculty, simulation faculty, and clinicians conduct the boot camp.
- Nursing students have the opportunity to enhance clinical nursing skills through simulation.
- Various nursing stations are set up and students rotate through each station including:
  - health assessment
  - safety
  - intravenous therapy
  - proper documentation
  - care of gastrointestinal and chest tubes
- Benefits student members and non-members.
- Increases membership engagement by providing members who are clinically skilled the opportunity to teach and share their knowledge and provide service to the Chapter.

Evidence-Based Practice Meeting

- Offered to all members at a local dinner meeting.
- Members highlight their areas of research/EBP projects through either a podium or poster presentation.
- Members who received any funding from the chapter share their work with other members.
- The chapter provides CEs to members and community members at this event.
- During one of these meetings, the chapter offered the virtual program event entitled “Simple Strategies for Inviting Self Care into your Life: Why? When? How?” A chapter in New York was invited to join this continuing education event virtually using Zoom.

Newsletter

- Published 3 times per year to highlight chapter and member activities.
- Distributed via e-mail and The Circle.
- The Special Edition EBP newsletter highlights publications, research, and EBP projects or members and is circulated via The Circle, as well as on Facebook and Twitter.

Summary

- The programs highlighted promote Sigma’s mission of excellence in scholarship, leadership, and service.
- Over the years, program development has evolved to a more comprehensive approach to meet the needs of members and the community at-large.