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One Chapter’s Journey to Bringing Students to the Board

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Membership of a professional organization offers members the opportunity to advance their networking network, develop their knowledge and skills, and be involved in leadership opportunities, amongst other things. Benefits for those involved are felt and seen. Some of these benefits include a resource for maintaining professional values and standards; providing opportunities for continuing education/professional development, mentoring, networking, and collaboration; providing support for challenging issues; philanthropic efforts; and promotion of the profession.

One problem throughout many chapters has been the ability to engage and retain students within their chapter/organization. Many students, especially those in the millennial age group do not grasp or understand the importance of involvement in a professional organization. The aim of this chapter’s development and implementation of a student intern position was to combat this idea that professional organizations are not valuable. The other aim was to get rid of the “WIIFM” or “what’s in it for me” syndrome. The chapter was able to learn many lessons through the development and implementation of this program. The first student intern was able to learn through mentorship, but the chapter learned many things about old practices or beliefs to gain an increased number of participating younger members.

This presentation outlines one chapter’s journey to developing and implementing a student internship position, including the successes, failure, lessons learned, and future plans. One larger success and future plan to be discussed is the unique, innovative idea of designing and implementing a student committee. This committee was begun, designed, and run by the students increasing student participation. Students were able to lead and make suggestions to the board about activities, issues, projects that are important to them. Some of the challenges include the design of the student position. This chapter hopes to inform other chapters of these positives and areas for improvement to help ease transition and/or development for other chapters. Finally discussion surrounding the outcomes of the student intern program, student led committee, and directional goals for the chapter will be discussed.

Title:
One Chapter’s Journey to Bringing Students to the Board

Keywords:
Chapter Leadership, Student Intern and Succession Planning

References:

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Abstract Summary:
This presentation will showcase one chapter's journey to bringing students to the board. It will review the chapter's successes, failures, lessons learned, and future plans.

Content Outline:
Introduction:
- This presentation will discuss one chapter's journey in bringing students to the board.

Topic One: Successes
- After the previous leadership connection through Sigma, this chapter decided to develop and implement a nurse internship program in efforts to engage students in this professional nursing organization. This section will discuss the successes in bringing the student to the board.

Topic Two: Failures/ Lessons Learned
- This section will discuss failures/lessons learned in bringing students to this chapter's board. These include things like orientation to the position, design of the position, and direction for the future.

Topic Three: Future Plans
- This part of the presentation will discuss future plans for students on the board through the development of a student intern position including a new committee specifically designed by students, for students to be engaged and involved in this professional nursing students.

Conclusion
- This chapter hopes to help other chapters develop or understand the responsibility and impact of having a student intern, as well as the outcomes that may be produced.

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Professional Experience: Experienced nurse leader with background in bedside nursing in step-down and critical care, nurse management experience, experience as an interim CNO, clinical faculty at The Ohio State University, and various leadership roles within the Epsilon Chapter board.

Author Summary: Dr. Kady Martini is a nurse leader with experience in acute care, long term acute care, rehabilitation, skilled nursing, and academic settings. Dr. Martini is currently the President of the Epsilon Chapter at the Ohio State University.

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**Professional Experience:** Morgan is a student nurse at The Ohio State University College of Nursing. Morgan held the inaugural position of "Leadership Intern" on the Epsilon Chapter's Board of Directors. She designed a student governance board and 5-year action plan to increase undergraduate Sigma member involvement as well as foster retention rates of younger members.

**Author Summary:** Morgan held the inaugural position of "Leadership Intern" on the Epsilon Chapter's Board of Directors. She designed a student governance board and 5-year action plan to increase undergraduate Sigma member involvement as well as foster retention rates of younger members.