

**Title**

Celebrating Knowledge and Success with an NCLEX Challenge Event

**Author**

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**Presentation Objectives**

1. Describe the purpose for the event and the development activities.
2. Identify key findings and areas for improvements.
3. Summarize evaluation data and conclusions.

**Abstract**

I developed this poster to describe an educational project which combined 60+ years of expertise as Nurse Educators and a community of nursing students who were preparing to take the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN). To increase the student's knowledge and critical thinking skills necessary to successfully pass the exam, members of a state nursing chapter created, planned and offered an NCLEX Challenge Event within their local community.

## **Purpose**

The purpose for creating the NCLEX Challenge Event began with the members of the Kentucky Nurses Association (KNA): Green River Chapter voting to create a community-based educational event which would bring the Nurse Educators and the recent graduates from the Associate Degree Nursing programs together for an evening to celebrate the student's accomplishments of graduating along with supporting them as they were preparing for their upcoming NCLEX-RN exam. The NCLEX Challenge Event would be held during the spring of 2017. In addition, funds raised from the event would be used to award a nursing scholarship during the fall of 2017.

## **Project Development Methods**

During the November, 2016 KNA: Green River Chapter Meeting, the eight members of the Event Planning Committee started assigning various tasks such as writing questions, requesting starter funds from KNA for food and supplies (\$450), searching for an appropriate venue within Henderson or Davies County, Kentucky, finding a food catering service, and getting price estimates for supplies/servers. By January of 2017, the event details were complete. The Inaugural NCLEX Challenge Event was held on the evening of February 22, 2017 from 5:00 – 8:30 pm at Owensboro Health located in Davies County, Kentucky.

By writing and presenting NCLEX-style questions along with the rationales, the students were given a unique opportunity to apply their knowledge as they answered each question. The event was a celebration and included food, music, a friendly competition, and tons of fun! There was a small registration fee, which included a meal (BBQ sandwich/chips/cookie/drink): competition team of 6 students = \$25, student audience = \$5, and RN audience - \$10.

The completion had two rounds, each lasting 45 minutes with 24 questions and one team member was responsible for providing the answer on behalf of his or her team. One KNA: Green River Chapter Member was designated as the score keeper for each college team and maintained confidentiality at each team table during the competition rounds.

### **Key Findings**

By giving area nursing students the opportunity to participate in the NCLEX Challenge Event, they were able to practice their ability in answering NCLEX style questions. Students were encouraged to develop a personal NCLEX study plan based upon how they answered each question. There were a total of five (5) competing teams from Henderson Community College (CC), Hopkinsville CC, Madisonville CC, Owensboro CC, and University of Louisville-Owensboro.

The Events Planning Committee had to meet frequently outside of existing monthly meetings as usual and this was not expected as this was first discussed and some members found it hard to keep up. Each member of the chapter donated drinks and cookies and delivered them to the event which really cut down on cost and saved money to go toward a future nursing scholarship. Upon formal request, KNA granted our chapter with starter development funding to help pay for the food. The net profit from the NCLEX Challenge Event was a total of \$566.60.

### **Areas of Improvements**

Future improvements would include reorganization for the registration process to simplify the entry and payment (receipt of payment) process in order for the treasurer to have additional assistance when participants pay their registration, without preregistering. The submission deadline should be moved up to at least one month prior to the event date for when the NCLEX-style questions and rationales must be turned in to the presenter in order for him/her to finalize

the formatting of event presentation. Lastly, improvements in communication were needed along members of the Events Planning Committee, KNA: Green River Chapter Members, and the venue regarding event updates and changes.

### **Evaluation and Conclusion**

There were 65 nursing students who participated along with 29 registered nurses who attended in support of those students at our Inaugural NCLEX Challenge Event on February 22, 2017. The nursing team from Hopkinsville Community College won the competition and was awarded the traveling trophy! Attendee evaluations were 100 % positive.

In August of 2017, the KNA: Green River Chapter awarded a local nursing student with a \$500 scholarship award. Our chapter was successful in offering the 2<sup>nd</sup> NCLEX Challenge Event on February 25, 2018 in Owensboro, KY and hopes to continue this community nursing educational event to increase awareness about the KNA organization and our chapter's mission to foster and support future nurses.