

# Celebrating Knowledge and Success with an NCLEX Challenge Event

**Dr. Carol Murch, DNP, APRN, ACNS-BC, CHPN, CNE**

**Treasurer for Kentucky Nurses Association: Green River Chapter**

**RN to BSN Program Coordinator, Assistant Professor at Murray State University School of Nursing, Murray, Kentucky**

## Abstract

This project was the combining of 60+ years of experience 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.

## Purpose

Describe the activities for creating an event to assist nursing students as they prepare to take the NCLEX-RN exam and identify areas of improvement when planning for a future event.

## Methods

- ❖ During the Nov. 2016 chapter meeting, members unanimously voted to offer a 3 hour event in spring of 2017 to assist nursing students in Henderson and Davies County, Kentucky.
- ❖ Events Planning Committee was made up of eight Nurse Educators who were chapter members. Five were assigned to write questions and three were assigned to secure the funding, venue, food, drinks, and supplies.
- ❖ Within three months, the entire event was planned, developed, funded, and implemented.
- ❖ Registration fees varied: A team of six students - \$25, student audience - \$5, and RN audience - \$10.
- ❖ Competition designed for two rounds, each lasting 45 minutes with 24 questions and one team member provided an answer within 45 seconds after the presenter read each question.

## Key Findings

- ❖ The Events Planning Committee met frequently outside of existing monthly chapter meetings in order to keep a running dialogue about progress or questions.
- ❖ Upon formal request, we received development funds from the Kentucky Nurses Association which helped to purchase the food and supplies.
- ❖ Members from the KNA: Green River Chapter donated drinks and cookies.
- ❖ Owensboro Health allowed the use of a banquet room for free.
- ❖ The Inaugural NCLEX Challenge Event was held on the evening of Feb. 22, 2017 from 5-8:30 pm.
- ❖ The event was a celebration and included food, music, a friendly competition, and tons of fun for all who attended.

## Implications

- ❖ 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.
- ❖ There were a total of five competing teams from Henderson Community College, Hopkinsville Community College, Madisonville Community College, Owensboro Community College, and University of Louisville-Owensboro.
- ❖ The net profit of \$566.60 allowed the chapter to award a \$500 scholarship to one nursing student in August of 2017.
- ❖ Increased community awareness about the KNA organization and our specific chapter's mission to foster and support future nurses.

## Evaluation

- ❖ There were 94 attendees: 65 nursing student participants along with 29 registered nurses who attended in support of the students.
- ❖ The KNA: Green River Chapter NCLEX Challenge traveling trophy was awarded to the winning team of students from Hopkinsville Community College.
- ❖ Attendee evaluations were 100% positive.
- ❖ The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual NCLEX Challenge is scheduled for Feb. 25, 2018 at Settle United Methodist Outreach Center in Owensboro, KY.
- ❖ Future improvements include reorganizing the registration process to ease with event entry, moving up the date for the questions to be submitted for presentation formatting and the understanding to communicate with venue about any changes.

## References

1. Kentucky Nurses Association. (2017). KNA chapters. Retrieved from <http://www.kentucky-nurses.org/Main-Menu-Category/About-KNA/KNA-Chapters>
2. Kentucky Nurses Association: Green River Chapter. (2017). Inaugural NCLEX challenge winners. Photo by Marlena Buchanan, Chapter Secretary, and includes Jennifer Alford, Kathy Davis, Autumn Denny, Victoria Johnston, Amyleigh Mandel, and Kayce Toms along with Peggy Bozarth, Director of Nursing, Tommie Sue Pniwski, Professor of Nursing, and three attendees.
3. National Council of State Boards of Nursing. (2015). NCLEX-RN detailed test plan – Nurse educator version - Effective April 2016. Retrieved from [https://www.ncsbn.org/2016\\_RN\\_DetTestPlan\\_Educator.pdf](https://www.ncsbn.org/2016_RN_DetTestPlan_Educator.pdf)



Client Needs	Number of questions (50)	Member Name
Safe and Effective Care Environment		
Management of Care	8.5-11.0 (10)	Whitaker 10
Safety and Infection Control	4.5-7.5 (8)	Murch 6
Health Promotion and Maintenance	3.0-6.0 (5)	Yates 5
Psychosocial Integrity	3.0-6.0 (5)	Taylor 5
Physiological Integrity		
Basic Care and Comfort	3.0-6.0 (5)	Yates 5
Pharmacological and Parenteral Therapies	6.0-9.0 (7)	Murch 4 Buchanan 3
Reduction of Risk Potential	4.5-7.5 (5)	Taylor 5
Physiological Adaptation	5.5-8.5 (7)	Buchanan 7

