

Community Partners' Perceptions of Their Collaborative Role in RN-to-BSN Service Learning

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Session Objectives

By the end of the session, participants will-

- recognize community partners' perceptions of their collaborative role in service learning projects.
- recognize the importance of creating and sustaining collaboration with community partners.

-No COI

-No sponsorship or commercial support

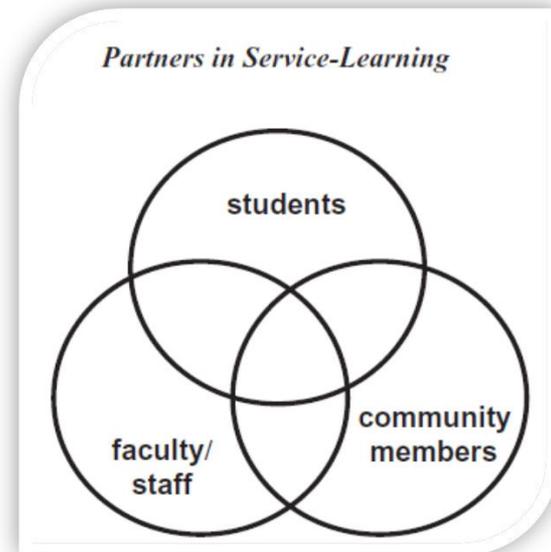
Service Learning

- Provides the opportunity for students to meet academic objectives while engaging in service opportunities in the community (Ross, 2012).
- **Experiential**
- **Reflective**
- Is a “teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities” (National Service-Learning Clearinghouse, 2013).

Research Purpose

- Invested in student success
- Multiple Community Partners
- Strengthen collaborative relationships
- **Literature Gaps**

(Felton & Clayton, 2011, p. 78)



Research Question

What are community partners' perceptions of service learning projects completed by RN to BSN students?

Methodology

- Eight community partners (local to international)
- Semi-structured interviews
- Interviewed regarding perceptions of role as collaborative partners
- Interviews transcribed and analyzed using a constant comparison method.
- Member checks used to share initial findings with participants supporting the findings as credible.

Results

Themes from Community Partner's Interviews

- Service learning projects broaden RN to BSN students' horizons.
- Service learning projects offered additional opportunities for collaboration; not only between the RN to BSN students and community partners but also between the RN to BSN students and the community members.
- Collaborative service learning projects improve the health of the community.
- Service learning projects and community partnerships are investments.

Service learning projects broaden RN to BSN students' horizons.

“I feel like the students have come in and have really gained- it broadens their perspective. Not just in terms of nursing, but broadens their world perspective like, ‘This is our community.’”

“I think it broadens them culturally. I think it broadens them professionally, and it exposes them to research-based programs that have quality outcomes that are being done around the world.”

Service learning projects offered additional opportunities for collaboration

- RN to BSN students and community partners

“We actually were able to enlighten each other on how things work on their end versus our end.”

“Bringing with them experience from somewhere else; gave an opinion from something [the student] sees regularly in practice; always bring something in.”

- RN to BSN students and the community members

“Both nurses [students] were interested in what they [community members] had to say.”

“That almost one-on-one interest that the students tend to take when they come. The patients that they're working with feel valued and feel like someone is taking time for them.”

Collaborative service learning projects improve the health of the community.

“They [students] help me to get across 911, how to call. Our children we serve do not go on the phone. A little nine-year-old boy.... was afraid to practice. His parents were right there and said, ‘You can do this.’ He did.

That was November...

In May, that mother fell hit her head was unconscious. That young nine-year-old was brave enough to pick up the phone and dial 911.”

Service learning projects and community partnerships are investments.

“To just make sure that she can be the best nurse she can be with a well-rounded experience, and I take it very seriously. I want to make sure she meets her objectives....I feel very invested in making sure it's a good experience for her.”

“We're very committed to that whole educational piece.”

Discussion

Outcomes-

- Community partners perceive that they directly contribute to student's success.
- RN to BSN Service Learning projects perceived to benefit both the community partner's and their respective communities.

Opportunities-

- For nursing faculty to collaborate with community partners to develop meaningful student service experiences.
- Sustain relationships with community partners as stakeholders in student's academic success.

Questions?

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