

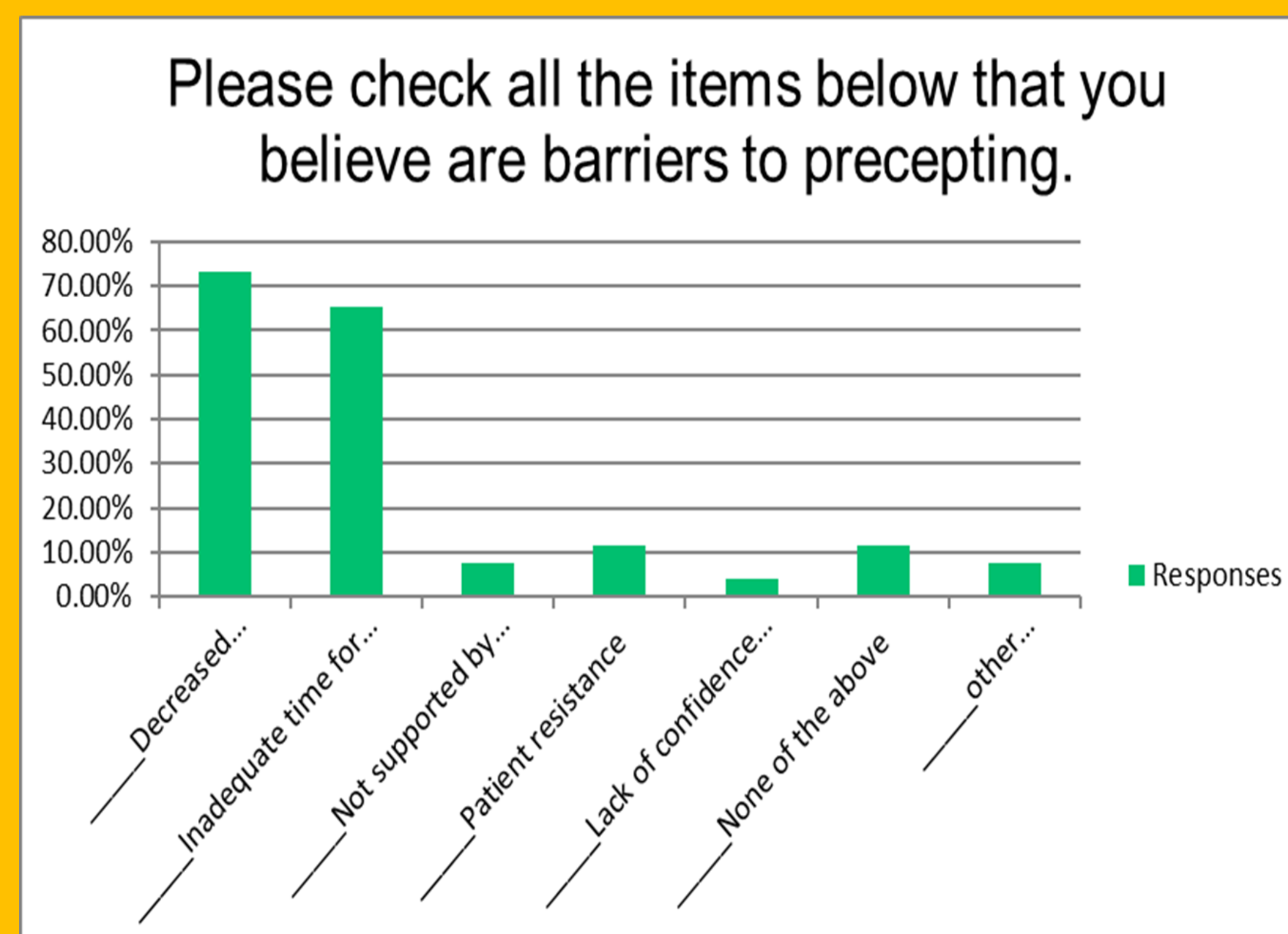
# Building the Road to Sustainability: Preceptor Relationships in Advanced Practice Nursing Education

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**Background:** Unique barriers exist within the rural environment that can hinder the retention of qualified family practice preceptors. Supply of appropriate preceptors is not keeping up with the increased numbers of students participating in advanced nursing education programs. The constant demand on the small pool of preceptors within these communities are causing current preceptors to "take a break" or decline students for certain periods of time. Preceptors in these small local communities cite lack of support from their organization, decreased productivity, increased time demands and lack of confidence as barriers to precepting (Morgan et al., 2017).

**Purpose:** The study will identify how to build preceptor relationships and promote retention and sustainability of advanced nursing education clinical preceptors within rural communities



**Methods:** Data was gathered from area preceptors using Survey Monkey to assess:

1. Barriers to precepting
2. Internal and external rewards of precepting
3. Overall satisfaction with the current precepting program and Preceptor Handbook
4. Intent to precept in the future.

–The survey was sent to those in rural areas that have precepted students from Pittsburg State University within the last 5 years. It allowed for both quantitative and qualitative methods. It consisted of 15 questions, many asking for the top three answers or choices, with the option to elaborate or offer suggestions.

## Results:

- The top three barriers to precepting included:
  1. Decreased productivity(73%)
  2. Inadequate time for teaching (65%)
  3. Patient resistance/tied with none of the above (11%)

- The top three internal/external rewards of precepting included:

### • Internal:

1. Professional obligation
2. Love of teaching
3. Career development

### •External:

1. Recertification credits
2. Access to CE, library or preceptor development.
3. No external rewards are necessary.

- Satisfaction with PSU DNP precepting program: 80% were either Satisfied or Very Satisfied.

- How useful was the Preceptor Handbook and other materials provided by PSU : 37% found them to be useful, 29% found them to be neither useful or useless and 18% found them not useful at all.

- 92% of respondents would precept again.

Results align with the literature review finding the most common barriers to precepting echoing that of other rural areas.

- Patient resistance was a new finding, that was not as prominent in other research articles.

- The Survey indicated that although the preceptors are satisfied with the PSU precepting program, they did not feel the literature that is presented to them was valuable. There were no recommendations or comments on why they felt that way

