Title:
The Gamma Tau at-Large Chapter: Change is Inevitable, the Challenges of Keeping Current

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ACCEPTED

Session Title:
Leadership Poster Session 1 (Saturday/Sunday, 16 & 17 November)

Slot:
LEAD PST1: Sunday, 17 November 2019: 11:45 AM-12:15 PM

Abstract Describes:
Ongoing Work/Project

Applicable Category:
Students, Leaders

Keywords:
chapter leadership, community service and scholarship

References:


Abstract Summary:
Keeping current and relevant with new graduates and established nurses while maintaining a thriving chapter requires change- and change is hard. Understanding the drivers behind nursing engagement.

Content Outline:

Summary:
The Gamma Tau-at-Large Chapter promotes the Sigma mission by celebrating nursing excellence in scholarship, leadership, and service. The chapter has applied Connect, Collaborate, and Catalyze themes by hosting numerous educational programs throughout the year, supporting research activities that advocate for nursing advancement, and serving the local community through volunteering. In order to maintain engagement with long standing members while supporting new graduates requires change.

Content Outline:

1. Scholarship
   1. Research Grants-Expanding to include EBP
   2. Research and Evidence-based Practice Conference
   3. National Nurses Ethics Conference
   4. Evidence-based Practice Conference and Research Days

2. Leadership
   1. Mentorship program
   2. New member survey and action plan
   3. Annual board retreat
   4. Board buddy: partnering experienced and new members
   5. Membership engagement and retention
   6. Networking events
   7. User friendly website
   8. Enhanced web presence through social media
9. Regular discussion postings and updates

3. Service
   1. Community events- social justice and environmental health
   2. Free health screenings
   3. Collaboration with other organizations

**Topic Selection:**

Leadership Poster Session 1 (Saturday/Sunday, 16 & 17 November) (25744)

**Abstract Text:**

The Gamma Tau-at-Large Chapter (#089) was first chartered in 1978 at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and in 2007 it became a chapter-at-large in partnership with California State University, Northridge (CSUN). In the last 40 years, the chapter has inducted more than 4000 individuals to the Sigma. It has been the recipient of Regional Excellence Awards as well as the prestigious Chapter Key Award. The membership comprises of nurses and nursing students from diverse practice, education, and leadership levels who contribute locally to the mission and goals of the honor society of nursing. This presentation highlights the activities of the chapter to address the foundational pillars: leadership, service and research, to promote the Presidential theme of Connect, Collaborate and Catalyze and to develop strategies to retain members across the continuum of their careers from new graduates to seasoned nurse leaders.

Continuing with the way it has always been done will not result in a thriving chapter. A creative approach to the status quo and cultural norms of a chapter are required to ensure the chapter is relevant and meeting the needs of all of the chapter members, the educational institutions and the populations we serve. Change requires a vision, leadership, a plan and investment of time and resources.

Living the mission and providing a vision beyond the purple cords at graduation is challenging. There are many competing priorities for new graduates, and engaging them early and often can facilitate the development of enduring relationships. Recognizing that nursing is not monochromatic is essential, and the spectrum between new graduates and seasoned academic leaders is broad. Additionally, nursing has a broad spectrum of drivers, things or causes that invigorate us to participate in an honor society. Assuming that the members will remain engaged for the name alone is in error. Addressing the WIFM (what’s in it for me) for each generation of nurses is the first step to meeting their needs.