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Sigma's Member Engagement: Global Initiatives Programs to Strengthen the Member Experience

Cynthia Vlasich, MBA, BSN, RN, FAAN

Global Initiatives, Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing (Sigma), Indianapolis, IN, USA

The history of Sigma Theta Tau International (Sigma) is varied and rich. It includes a deliberate decision to become international, including global expansion, which was formalized at the 1985 Biennial Convention in Indianapolis, when the House of Delegates voted to add “International” to Sigma Theta Tau’s name. The international work Sigma has undertaken since that time has led to the current Global Initiatives department.

Sigma’s Global Initiatives Department exists to enhance the organization’s reach, impact, and participation within the global healthcare community. To better reach that goal, the department has identified five global initiatives: Global Expansion; the Global Advisory Panel on the Future of Nursing; Relationship Building; Member Engagement and Member Growth. This session will focus on the member engagement initiative, which involves working closely with Sigma members around the world to identify current and prospective opportunities to develop and/or engage in various programs and events related to leadership, education, scholarship, policy, practice, and service.

Over the last few years, Sigma has launched new programs to engage members. In 2016, the Institute for Global Healthcare Leadership was created to develop innovative leaders in all fields of healthcare. Participation in the Institute for Global Healthcare Leadership prepares healthcare leaders to effectively work in and/or lead major health initiatives, public health departments, public or private organizations, and global programs, thereby directly and indirectly improving the health of people worldwide. This Institute has been held for the past four years, in Washington, DC and London, United Kingdom.

Sigma chapters complete at least two programs per fiscal year, to be compliant with the organization’s International Bylaws. It is important that chapters provide meaningful programs for members to keep them engaged and involved with the organization. Chapter leaders are charged with creating these programs. However, as volunteers with many other responsibilities, the requirement of completing two programs is not always easily achieved.

Title:

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Keywords:

Global Initiatives, Healthcare and Sigma

References:

<https://www.sigmanursing.org/connect-engage/our-global-impact/institute-for-global-healthcare-leadership>

<https://www.sigmanursing.org/connect-engage/our-global-impact/sigma's-global-initiatives>

Abstract Summary:

Sigma's Global Initiatives Department exists to enhance the organization's reach, impact, and participation within the global healthcare community. This presentation will highlight the Member Engagement Initiatives of the department to inform members about the array of available program options.

Content Outline:

The learner will:	Content:	Time (20 minutes):	Teaching/Learning method:
Understand the strategic directions for Sigma global initiatives, specifically member engagement.	Overview of global expansion of Sigma. Discussion of Sigma global initiatives operational directions.		<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Lecture· PowerPoint presentation
Become familiar with the programs Sigma has to offer and the benefits for members.	Explanation of each program implemented by the Global Initiatives Department at Sigma		<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Lecture· PowerPoint presentation
Be familiar with future goals	What Sigma hopes to accomplish in the future.		<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Lecture· PowerPoint presentation
Question and answer	Question and answer		<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Audience participation

First Primary Presenting Author

Primary Presenting Author

Cynthia Vlasich, MBA, BSN, RN, FAAN

Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing (Sigma)

Global Initiatives

Director, Global Initiatives

Indianapolis IN

USA

Author Summary: Cynthia Vlasich is the Director of Global Initiatives at the Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International and has served as an international nurse leader in a variety of roles throughout her nursing career. Such roles include

serving both as Vice President of Professional Services and Advertising at Gannett Healthcare Group and as Chief Nurse and division director at the American Red Cross.