Advancing Nursing Education Globally Through a Fulbright Teaching Award

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BACKGROUND

• The Fulbright program started in 1946 to develop international understanding between the US and the world.

• Fulbright awards approximately 1200 US Scholar grants annually.

• From April to August 2019, I spent 5 months in Lilongwe, Malawi at Kamuzu College of Nursing as part of my Fulbright Teaching Award entitled “Building Nurses Capacity to Implement Evidence-Based Practice in Malawi”.

AIM

• An online directory going back to 2010 enables the public to review past award recipients’ project titles, disciplines, and country of service.

• Aim 1: To quantify the number of nursing Fulbright awards in comparison to other health-professions.

• Aim 2: To share some of my activities and experiences as a Fulbright Scholar in Malawi.

• Aim 3: To encourage nurse educators to apply for a Fulbright

METHODS

• Online database search of past Fulbright awardees from 2010 to 2018.

• Search terms included “nursing”, “medicine-nursing”, or “public-health nursing”.

RESULTS

Number of Health-Related Fulbrights Awarded by Discipline (2010 - 2018)

- Nursing: 57
- Medicine: 217
- Public Health: 222

NARRATIVE RESULTS

• Over the past 8 years, nursing has only received < 60 Fulbright awards in comparison to their colleagues in medicine and public health who received >200 awards.

• The majority of published manuscripts written by Nursing Fulbright recipients were combined Research-Teaching Award recipients, but there are numerous opportunities for Teaching only awards for Nurse Educators.

• Even among teaching awards, there is flexibility within the assignment, with opportunities to do projects and small scale research, as well.

DISCUSSION

• My experience as a Fulbright scholar was similar to the accounts published in the literature in regards to (1) flexibility, (2) professional collaboration opportunities, and (3) challenges completing work during time period.

• Main difference between my experience and published accounts included (1) shorter length of 5 months abroad and (2) greater freedom of outcomes.

CONCLUSION

• The first aim of this presentation is to compare the number of nurses awarded Fulbright Awards in comparison to other health professions and thus encourage nurse educators to consider pursuing a Fulbright Award.

• The award allows for flexibility of timeline and outcomes and could be an ideal fit for a nurse educator looking to connect with global partners and work internationally.

References:


