



Promoting Nursing Honors Education Sustainability through Best Practices

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Introduction/Background

- Nursing honors programs (NHP) provide faculty an excellent forum for cultivating the next generation of nurse leaders, researchers, and scholars through high engagement experiences
- NHP face complex and multifaceted challenges
- Silo structures, limited formal collaborative opportunities, and a paucity of literature or formal guidelines leave nursing honors leaders with limited guidance for developing or sustaining quality programs
- Significant and rapid growth of a Nursing Honors Scholar Program across 3 campuses (Denton, Dallas, and Houston, Texas) yielded valuable outcomes, yet threatened the program's sustainability



2017 TWU Nursing Honors Students



Purpose

Establish a sustainability plan for the Nursing Honors Scholar Program by leading, developing, and coalescing a team of faculty across the university's 3 campuses

Key Concepts

- Empowerment of faculty
- Data driven and inclusive decision making
- Research on identified best practices
- Alignment with Texas Woman's University (TWU) & College of Nursing (CON) strategic plans
- Processes that increase productivity, efficiency, and mutually beneficial meaningful outcomes

Strategic Initiatives

- **Develop Nursing Honors Curriculum:**
 - Facilitate completion of honors graduation requirements
 - Provide faculty workload credit
- **Strategic Honors Capstone Experiences that:**
 - Maximize the honors experience through deliberate integration of honors tenets: leadership, scholarship, service, and research
 - Yield increased mutually beneficial outcomes to students, faculty, the university, College of Nursing and community partners
 - Are faculty-driven, increasing productivity, purpose, recognition, and satisfaction
- **Formalize program on Houston Campus**
- **Ongoing formal honors faculty development** initiatives to promote faculty excellence and professional goal attainment
- **Establish Honors Faculty Designation Program** that increases faculty motivation and productivity
- **Identify new funding sources**
- **Establish formal processes for documenting and disseminating outcomes**
- **Establish a Faculty Incentive Program** to increase productivity and facilitate honors diploma completion.



TWU Nursing Honors Faculty and ENFLA Faculty

Outcomes

- Nursing Honors Faculty Team established
- Program formalized on Houston campus
- Sustainability plan developed and initiated
- Nursing Honors Curriculum developed
- Broad base support obtained across 3 campuses
- Nursing initiatives adopted by the University Honors Scholar Program, benefitting all disciplines
- Increased faculty opportunities and satisfaction



Future Leaders, Scholars, and Researchers

Next Steps – Looking to the Future

- Implementation of strategic initiatives
- Develop honors program for transfer students
- Identify & mentor new Nursing Honors faculty
- Increase networking opportunities and resources for Nursing Honors at the national level
- Nursing honors research initiatives
- Increase collaborative honors experiences with other nursing honors programs



Nursing Honors Study Abroad

