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International Faculty Exchange Program: A Unique Transcultural Nursing Experience

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Purpose:

The purpose of this qualitative study is to identify the common themes that emerged during the international faculty exchange program experience.

Methods:

The international faculty exchange program aims to integrate the vision of inclusive excellence, enhance cultural awareness, and active promotion of several dimensions of diversity and future curriculum collaboration. The intercultural experience offered the opportunity to observe, immerse, and exchange ideas related to teaching and student learning strategies between two institutions. Two faculty from Manila, Philippines were invited to The College of Saint Scholastica in Duluth, Minnesota for a 2-week intercultural experience to observe didactic teaching pedagogies in the classroom, skills lab and simulation, and clinical experience. The visiting faculty participated by attending classes and interacting with students in the classroom and the skills lab, socializing with students and faculty, and meeting with the leadership team to compare and contrast programs and its delivery in a cultural context. The visiting faculty visited local parks and tourist attractions as well as participating in a SIGMA Chapter event as part of the American immersion experience. Daily debriefing was conducted by the host faculty. A final reflection was completed by the visiting faculty and common themes were identified related to the transcultural experience.

Results:

The international faculty exchange program provided a once in a lifetime experiential learning and global perspectives. The following common themes were identified by the visiting faculty through the final reflections: every culture is unique, nursing concepts are universal, nursing education is dynamic and complex in its delivery, each program has its own strengths and weaknesses, adaptation and flexibility are essential, and the experience contributed to professional and personal growth.

Conclusion:

The international faculty exchange program was designed to characterize the evolving nursing community landscape and render opportunities to engage in collaboration with educators and learners of diverse background. New ideas gleaned from the experience and observations are essential for practice improvement. Innovative teaching strategies can be adapted and implemented in the Philippines setting. Participation in this program allowed the faculty to grow as leaders, researchers, and effective collaborators. Thus,

strong collaboration and continued support from each institution is essential in the success and sustainability of the program.

Title:

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Keywords:

intercultural collaboration, international exchange experiences and nursing education

Abstract Summary:

Learning institutions with shared common educational goals and value-based nursing education have established a meaningful and valuable relationships through collaboration by offering an international clinical immersion. These two institutions aim to deepen and strengthen the collaboration through a faculty exchange program to promote equal exchange of ideas and experiences.

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Author Summary: Dr. Diaz is motivated by her rich intercultural immersion experience in clinical practice and as a student and educator from a diverse background. Her active involvement and lifelong connection with Mary Johnston College of Nursing where she is an alumna allows her to collaborate and establish the international faculty exchange program. She is currently an Associate Professor and Interim Program Coordinator in

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