Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing

EXCELLENCE in Nursing Education

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careers

Excellence in nursing begins with the educator

By Theresa Volpe

Graduate programs prepare students for a variety of roles. From nurse practitioners and nurse anesthetists in master's programs to clinical researchers in doctoral programs, the practice profession of nursing emphasizes knowledge essential to its students. One role, however, is often overlooked.

After graduating from a master's or doctoral program, many nurses assume the responsibility of an educator in academic and service settings. Even the myriad of nurse practitioners graduating from master's programs today are being recruited to teach, and many are encouraged to pursue a doctorate so they can continue to hold academic appointments and be successful in their higher tenure.

While it is important that educators be competent clinicians themselves, it is also critical that they know about teaching, learning, evaluation, curriculum development, and assessment, the nature of academic life and more. In addition to being competent clinicians and researchers, educators most importantly need to be expert teachers.

For too long, the academic community has assumed that individuals are qualified to teach simply because of credentials and clinical expertise and that they learn to be teachers, advisors and curriculum developers through "on-the-job training" or "trial by fire." It is assumed that as long as they survive the role, they must be good. As a result, the concepts of excellence as teacher or faculty member rarely are discussed, and little attention is given to the ongoing development of faculty as educators.

To promote change, master's programs need to initiate or reiterate a track that prepares nurse educators for full-time faculty roles. If full-time faculty positions require knowledge of community colleges, part-time or non-tenure track positions in universities, or staff development positions in the practice setting. Additionally, doctoral programs need to provide an option that focuses on the educator/scholar role, not solely on the position of scientist or researcher.

Nursing academic administrators also need to encourage faculty to develop their skills as teachers, advisors and curriculum developers, and provide financial, workload reduction, graduate assistance and other types of support to help educators achieve such goals. Faculty development programs need to focus on issues related to the faculty role, such as facilitating an effective clinical conference with students, developing quality test items and using creative teaching strategies. Attendance at conferences designed for nurse educators needs to be viewed as worthwhile to the development of the nursing program. And faculty members need to be rewarded for their contributions to designing

Palliative care: One vision, one voice

By Cynthia Huston Rustison and Kathleen Hartman Sabatier

As members of the nursing profession, we seek ways to improve the quality of life for our patients throughout their life spans, whether that life is just beginning or entering its last phase. One of the ways that nursing can accomplish this end is by taking the lead in advocating for quality palliative care.

Traditionally, palliative care has been associated with the alleviation of suffering in anticipation of imminent death. It is often considered as an integral part of the care patients receive at the end of life. However, palliative care could be transformed as the needs and preferences of patients change throughout their lives. The Institute for Hospice and Palliative Care at Johns Hopkins University designed an educational program, Palliative Care in Practice, to help nurses teach about the quality of life for their patients.

Palliative care seeks to improve the quality of life for patients.

The field of palliative care. Together, these organizations represent more than 463,000 nurses. By the end of the five days, participating nurse educators spoke with one voice on critical issue, palliative care could be transformed.

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INTERNATIONAL AWARDS

Deadline approaches

April 15 is the deadline for the international awards to be presented during the biennial convention in November. For details, visit www.nursingsociety.org.

CONTRIBUTING AUTHORS

Cynthia Huston Rustison and Kathleen Hartman Sabatier

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In rapidly increasing numbers, nurses are turning to the Internet for information on careers, education and research options. The American Journal of Nursing sponsored a survey of 3,000 RNs and uncovered that 78 percent have Internet access—a nine percent increase from the previous year. Sigma Theta Tau International has also seen Internet use on the rise through its site. Recent numbers of nurses are connecting on the rise through its sponsored a survey of 6,000 nurses and a career center available on the Web site. Directories, journals and research, for convenient, useful online information, 2000, uncovered that 78 percent have Internet site. Sigma Theta Tau International has developed these new offerings on its Web site.

The member community of nurses

In January 2001, Sigma ThetaTau International premieres the Member Community—a group of services designed to promote interaction among members. Included in the community is the Directory of Nurse Leaders, a furling of all active members. It allows members to search password-protected contact information by name and state and network with colleagues. The Directory of Nurse Experts, a catalog of distinguished writers, lecturers and health care experts, is also available to all Web site visitors. Other services available through the Member Community include an e-forum, which enables members to establish private news and discussion groups, and a chat service that provides a convenient opportunity for members to exchange ideas and research knowledge. A calendar is also included in the Member Community, featuring future Sigma Theta Tau International events.

Research a click away

In an effort to support nursing knowledge worldwide, Sigma Theta Tau International now provides the Registry of Nursing Research as a complimentary resource to both member groups and nonmembers, thanks to a generous grant from Indianapolis philanthropist Ruth Lilly. Located on the library page of Sigma Theta Tau International's Web site, the Registry of Nursing Research is an electronic, searchable database containing more than 3,000 studies. All nurse researchers, including both members and nonmembers, are encouraged to register their research with the Registry. The process has recently been updated making it easier to use.

Beginning in March, members will also be able to access the Journal of Nursing Scholarship online. Members may opt to discontinue the printed version and review the online version only, which will be available on the Web site two weeks earlier than the printed version's delivery. E-mail member services at moomser@stti.iupui.edu if you would like to take advantage of this new service. Want to use the library to research a topic but don't know where to start? To help visitors discover additional information, the Library Search has been created. Now members and non-members are able to use one search function to pull information from several different library resources, including the Registry of Nursing Research, the Literature Indexes and the Online Journal of Knowledge Synthesis for Nursing. Mapping out your career

Sigma Theta Tau International has expanded CareerMap, its nursing career resource, in response to member requests for career information and job searches. A unique job search program will be added in early 2001, providing a candidate-focused and easy-to-use format at no charge to its users. Candidates will be able to search for jobs in a particular setting, such as a hospital or office, and by location with information as specific as a ZIP code or as broad as an entire state. E-mails will be sent to candidates when a new job is posted, and useful links, such as salary and moving calculators, are included on the site. CareerMap continues to feature information helpful to nurses at any stage in their career. Whether it's learning how to locate new nurses, discovering how to change career paths within nursing, deciding on advanced education or planning a rewarding, active retirement, the CareerMap section of the Web site offers all nurses easy access to information vital to their career growth.

Members profiled on the CareerMap Web page are also available to address specific career questions or concerns. Questions and responses may be published on the Web site or in a future issue of Educational看

Continuing education credit for the busy professional is easy to earn with one of the peer-reviewed case studies found on the Sigma Theta Tau International Web site. Created to advance the clinical reasoning, decision-making and judgment of practicing nurses around the world, each case study is based on a real-life situation, the latest practice information and current research. Authors and reviewers are members of Sigma Theta Tau International. Topics in development include the aging population, anxiety, depression, delegation, infectious disease, end of life issues, women's health, genetics and more. For the learner, the case study format provides an interactive learning experience with the opportunity to link to relevant Web sites for further research and scheduled online chats or forums. Authors and learners are brought together. These tools are available to both members and non-members.

For information about the online continuing education program, contact Ruth Soper at 1.888.634.7575 or visit Continuing Education on the Web site, www.nursingsociety.org.

For more information about any of these new online services, contact Sandy Fladders@Bannockburn at 1.888.634.7575.

Nurse experts answer career questions

In response to member requests for career advice, five Sigma Theta Tau International staff members have stepped forward to share their experiences and knowledge. Linda Finke, Jeanne Floyd, Marge Pike, Barbara Robinette and Sue Wheeler, are available to answer your career questions by calling 1.888.634.7575 or via e-mail.

Linda Finke, RN, PhD

Member since 1979

Current position: Director of Professional Development Services.

Previous positions include professor and associate dean for graduate program, clinical nurse specialist in child psychiatric nursing, editor and president of national organizations.

E-mail: linda@stti.iupui.edu

Jeanne Floyd, RN, PhD, CAE

Member since 1979

Current position: Director of Strategic Development.

Previous positions include executive director of a nursing organization, grant recipient and project director; consultant in strategic planning; community and administrative roles in public health and long-term care.

E-mail: jeanne@stti.iupui.edu

Marge Pike, RN, EdD, CPNP

Member since 1973

Current position: Director of Organizational Services.

Previous positions include president of Grief Limited, Inc., associate dean for administration, hospice director, professor and nurse practitioner.

E-mail: pikem@stti.iupui.edu

Barbara Robinette, RN, MSN

Member since 1987

Current position: Director of Continuing Services.

Previous positions include nurse educator, head nurse, staff nurse and office nurse.

E-mail: barbara@stti.iupui.edu

Sue Wheeler, RN, MSED

Member since 1981

Current position: Education and Research Coordinator.

Previous positions include clinical nurse specialist, associate director of medical-surgical department, nurse educator and staff nurse.

E-mail: swheele@stti.iupui.edu

Ask experienced nurse professionals your career questions. Back row from left to right: Sue Wheeler, RN, MSED; Jeanne Floyd, RN, PhD, CAE; Linda Finke, RN, PhD; Marge Pike, RN, EdD, CPNP; and in front: Barbara Robinette, RN, MSN.

Recognition opportunities online

Looking for a way to build name recognition? Help support the future of nursing!

Sigma Theta Tau offers exclusive Web page sponsorships that feature sponsors' corporate name, logo and hot link in an uncluttered environment. This opportunity is being extended to organizations that help fulfill the society's mission and vision.

The society's Web site, www.nursingsociety.org, averages more than 110,000 views per month. It has become a focal point for our 125,000 active members, as well as for chapters and other breast cancer patient organizations seeking excellence in nursing practice, education, administration and research.

Exclusive Web page sponsorships are available in monthly blocks beginning January 1, 2001. Sponsors can choose a specific page to feature their information, including the highly visible catalog of products & services, careers, education, chapters and what's new pages of the Web site.

If your organization is interested in sponsoring a Web page, please contact Kathy Bennison via marketing@stti.iupui.edu, 1.888.634.7575 (U.S. and Canada) or +800.634.7575.1 (International) for more information.

www.nursingsociety.org

EXCELLENCE IN NURSING EDUCATION

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www.nursingsociety.org

Connecting nurses worldwide

www.nursingsociety.org
www.nursingsociety.org

new connections

Discover the new opportunities at www.nursingsociety.org

In the high-speed world of health care, connecting nurses with valuable, timely information is critical. That's why Sigma Theta Tau International is offering its members expanded online opportunities in 2001.

Beginning with the premiere of the online Member Community in January, www.nursingsociety.org allows members to uncover a directory for networking; chat and forum features to share ideas with experts; and a calendar to view upcoming events.

New online features also make research more accessible to nurses through the Web site. The Registry of Nursing Research is now available to all nurses worldwide, and the Journal of Nursing Scholarship can be delivered to a member's inbox.

Members will also enjoy expanded career-building information that includes job search capabilities, resource materials and articles, and answers to specific career questions by nurse leaders.

To learn more about these new opportunities, visit us online at www.nursingsociety.org.

Sigma Theta Tau International
Honor Society of Nursing
In the fast-paced world of health care, nursing schools are faced with the challenge of preparing graduates for rapidly changing roles. To help meet the needs of nurse educators, four projects were launched in the spring of 1999 to develop national nursing teaching models.

The Kansas City Best Practices initiative was funded by Health Midwest, Hoebst Marion Roussel (now Aventis Pharmaceutical Foundation) and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas City. Awarded a total of $125,000, the projects are led by three education institutions. Sigma Theta Tau serves as the project coordinator.

Case Manager Course Demonstration Project
"Case management is going to be part of our systems, there's no doubt about that," said Kathy Fletcher, RN, PhD, of the University of Kansas Medical Center School of Nursing. "Our educational tool will help nurses practice the case manager role in a safe situation. It will also introduce them to resources that can help them—and their patients—in the future." Led by Fletcher, the Case Manager Course Demonstration Project is an online, interactive tool designed to instruct nurses new to the case manager role.

The practical, real-life case scenarios and resource management allow clinicians to learn valuable information and administrative to provide new staff the flexibility to learn as a convenient time.

The Med ID Demonstration Project
The Med ID Demonstration Project, led by Kim Tankel, RN, MSN, ARNP, partnered TMC-Behavioral Health Network with Central Missouri State University School of Nursing. Working closely with clients and many other sources, students recorded health information about clients. The information obtained was recorded in a database and used to create a Med ID card that displayed a personal photo, demographic information, health care contacts, medications, and mental and physical disorders.

"The process of creating the Med ID card enables clients to gain understanding about medications and mental illness," said Tankel. "It also develops staff, faculty and students' abilities to utilize computerized teaching tools for client education."
The Med ID project emphasizes the necessity of client education at the level of client understanding for clinicians and demonstrates how administrators can efficiently store and retrieve important information to improve collaboration and coordination of services.

Clinical Outcomes Demonstration Project
The University of Kansas School of Nursing and four clinical agencies partnered to educate nursing students in clinical outcomes research. Led by Ann Kuckelman Cobb, RN, MS, and Kristine Williams, RN, MS, students investigated information about the quality of health care services.

"Our project helps nurses evaluate the care they provide. It is instrumental in helping them identify strengths, weaknesses and areas to improve in achieving healthier clients," said Williams. "Clinicians were excited about participating with the students and many were gratified to find that the outcomes of the services they provide to at-risk populations resulted in positive client outcomes," Williams continued.

Collaborative Orientation
Now in the evaluation phase, the Collaborative Orientation Demonstration Project is led by Susan Fetsch, RN, PhD, of Avila College. After regulatory standards from JCAHO, OSHA and Medicare were analyzed, an orientation curriculum model was developed for use by students, faculty and staff in a variety of health care settings.

"After the comparative review, issues that had not previously been addressed were consolidated into two new sections of the orientation manual: a Patient's Rights and Professional Ethics section as well as a Policies and Procedures section," said Fetsch. The purpose was to provide guidance to nursing students in a clinical setting and encourage them to explore their institution's policies on these issues. This project equips students to be better prepared as employees, spend less time in agency orientation and use more time learning bedside nursing skills.

For more information about these projects, please contact Sue Wheeler at 1.888.634.7575. Monthly Automatic Checking/Credit Deductions Now Available!
Support nurses and nursing through monthly automatic checking or credit card deductions of $25 or more. You may apply your contributions to research grants, leadership activities, the electronic library, membership subsidies, annual operating expenses or our endowment for the future.

For more information, please see the pamphlet accompanying your 2001 renewal or contact External Resource Services at 1.888.634.7575 or lbremmer@stni.iupui.edu.

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Excellence in Nursing Administration:
- Back to basics: Retention of high-quality nurses

Excellence in Clinical Practice:
- Nursing's untapped source

Excellence in Nursing Education:
- Excellence in nursing begins with the educator

Voice your opinion in a letter to the editor by e-mailing editor@stni.iupui.edu. Letters may be posted on the Web site, www.nursingsociety.org, and edited for length. Please include your name, phone number and chapter.

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