Advocacy: Are You Prepared?

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California USA

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Purpose & context for the political astuteness study

• Purpose of the study – based on PAI (Clark, 1984)
  • To inform about strengths and gaps of curriculum
    • Health Care Policy course in RN-BSN program
  • To identify strengths and gaps for effective advocacy

• Setting
  • Demographics
  • California State University

• Context
  • Participatory democracy
  • Scope of “patient advocacy”

Presentation - learning objectives

1. Describe two ways that nurses can act as advocates in society

2. Describe at least two implications for skill-building based on study results

3. You may add your own objectives for professional growth
State of California, USA

1st in population in USA – 38M people - 12% of the nation
“Minority Majority” state

Jerry Brown
39th Governor of California

Source: U.S. Census Bureau: State and County QuickFacts.
California State University
Dominguez Hills

Of the 23 CSUs, Dominguez Hills is the largest minority-serving campus
California State University Dominguez Hills
Advocacy – various meanings?

- **Internal to organizations**
  - Care in accordance with patient wishes
  - Assurance of safe and appropriate care
  - Assistance with access to needed services
  - Spokesperson for vulnerable individuals

- **External to organizations**
  - Spokesperson for vulnerable populations
  - Access to care/disparity issues
  - Patient ratios, fair wages, regulatory concerns
  - Public health and environmental issues
  - Information resource for elected officials
  - Information resource for communities
  - Engagement opportunities for public service & leadership
Voters have the power to initiate a ballot measure directly by petition (Proposition) without going through the legislature.
### Study – Political Astuteness

BSN Health Policy course – Demographics (n=349)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Demographics</th>
<th>&lt; 5 years</th>
<th>5-9 years</th>
<th>&gt; 9 years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Years Practiced as an RN</strong></td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Age Group</strong></td>
<td>20-29 yr</td>
<td>30-39 yr</td>
<td>40+ yr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Study – Political Astuteness

BSN Health Policy course (n=349)

Pre-test – questions about voting (participatory democracy) and awareness of issues where advocacy positions can be expressed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Political Activity and Knowledge</th>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registered to vote</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voted in last presidential election</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voted in last local election</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aware of current issues discussed by nursing organizations</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attended recent state or national nurses organization conference</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Study – Political Astuteness
### BSN Health Policy course (n=349)

Pre-test – questions related to actions based on political astuteness

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Political Activity and Knowledge</th>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Know whom to contact for health-related issues at state or federal level</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Know which elected officials are supportive of nursing</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have communicated with a legislator on health issues</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personally acquainted with a senator or representative</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Served as a resource person on health related issues</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Study – Political Astuteness

BSN Health Policy course

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Political Activity and Knowledge</th>
<th>PRE-TEST N=349</th>
<th>POST-TEST N=204</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registered to vote</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voted in last election</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voted in last local election</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attended recent state or national nurses organization conference</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aware of current issues discussed by nursing organizations</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Know whom to contact for health-related issues at the state or federal level</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Know which elected officials are supportive of nursing</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>73%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Served as a resource person on health related issues</td>
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<td>3%</td>
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Recommendations

• Within the Health Policy Course
  • Incorporate hands-on skill building exercises
  • Raise awareness about scope of advocacy
  • Experiences throughout the curriculum

• Nurses, Nationwide
  • Pretest provides a snapshot of nurses in general
    • How to raise awareness of public issues?
    • How to foster civic engagement by nurses?
    • How to facilitate collaborative work on public concerns?
    • How to advocate for disenfranchised and vulnerable populations in civic life?
    • How to educate elected officials and candidates for public office?
Thank you!!
Comments and Questions are Welcomed
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