

and Breaking Barriers

Carolina G. Huerta, EdD, MSN, RN, FAAN¹; Juana Mercedes Gutiérrez-Valverde, DSN²

College of Nursing, The Texas University, Rio Valley¹

Edinburg, Texas. USA

School of Nursing, Universidad Autonoma de Nuevo Leon²

Monterrey, NL. México.



Poster Presentation Goals

- This presentation focuses on the partnership between University of Texas-Pan American and Universidad Autonoma de Nuevo Leon-Monterrey, Mexico.
- Describe the development of a partnership between the Universidad Autonoma de Nuevo Leon-Monterrey, Mexico School of Nursing and the University of Texas-Pan American Nursing Department.
- Discuss the similarities between the two schools.
- Demonstrate the success of one collaborative international academic partnership project

Rationale for Building Mexico-U.S. Partnership

- Knowledge of global health care is an essential component of nursing in the 21st century. One avenue to impart this knowledge to nursing students is the creation of international partnerships.
- International partnerships promote educational experiences that allow nursing students to learn about educational and health care systems and develop cultural awareness.
- Nursing students living in the U.S.-Mexico border will become more sensitive to the importance of connecting with each other and globally.



Why build U.S. border-Mexico bridges?

- Geographically the Rio Grande Valley (USA) and Monterrey, Mexico are separated by the Rio Grande River.
- Culturally we are separated by the border and for many by language, customs, and traditions.

UT & UANL Nursing Student Profile

- UT 87% Mexican-American
- UANL 98.5 % Mexican nationals
- UT 22% males
- UANL 35 % males
- UT 80% of students either speak or understand Spanish
- UANL 5 % of students speak English

UANL Campus

- Baccalaureate in Nursing
- Masters of Science in Nursing (MCE)
- DSN
- Chronicity, HIV/AIDS, Drugs Prevention

UT Campus

- Baccalaureate in Nursing
- Masters of Science in Nursing
- FNP

Primary Academic Partnership Objectives

- Permit students and faculty at both institutions to develop an awareness of the academic services offered in the US and Mexico
- Develop strategic alliances that will enrich student and faculty learning
- Encourage the development of international collaboration among neighbor nursing schools

Project Activities

UT: Nursing Department Chair scholarly presentations at UANL campus via telecast
 UANL: student exchanges twice a year Mexico students attend class and clinical experiences; Students stay at dorms or local hotels; Eat on campus.
 UANL Nursing Faculty scholarly presentations at UTPA conferences
 UANL students, faculty, and community attend Nursing Research Day

UT Challenges

- Finding financial resources to have faculty assigned to students
- Faculty buy-in to the collaboration
- Student workloads are heavy
- Faculty workloads are heavy
- Busy faculty with multiple projects
- Faculty and student ethnocentricity

UT Barriers

- Time
- Workload
- Language (40% speak Spanish/ most colloquial)
- Distance
- Culture/Ethnocentricity

UANL Challenge

- Finding financial resources
- Faculty challenges
- Faculty with multiple projects

Lessons Learned

- The river does not divide but unite
- There are many cultural similarities between the two.
- Collaborative arrangements take much time and dedication
- Real friendships can be formed