The Old Dominion University School of Nursing in the College of Health Sciences joined together with Dental Hygiene, Environmental Health and Public Health to obtain a service learning grant that would exemplify the benefits of inter-professional education. Every school offered their honors’ students the opportunity to work on this project resulting in 4 groups comprised of 4 students, one from each school.

The end result was presentations to the Virginia Nutrition and Dietetics (VAND) 2014 Annual Conference by each group. Using topics chosen by the Nutrition Association, the groups focused on providing information to para-professionals that they could use to augment their role of teaching in various communities.

**Objectives**

1. Facilitate the intermingling of different schools in the College of Health Sciences to reach a common goal for dispersing educational information.
2. Recognize the commonalities of their backgrounds to work together for enriched outcomes.
3. Provide an opportunity to experience a professional role in the real world.

**Student Involvement**

Each nursing student, as a part of a 4 person team from each school, was expected to take full responsibility for meeting, corresponding, and developing the presentation to meet the expectations of VAND as they were presented.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

- Apply disciplinary specific knowledge and skills in an interprofessional service learning opportunity.
- Assess the community’s perspectives on health.
- Collaborate with VAND, each other, and faculty members to facilitate community-based health promotion for individuals and communities.
- Identify additional community needs and resources relevant to the communities paraprofessionals serve.
- Incorporate the principles of health literacy into the design and implementation of health promotion programming.
- Evaluate through measureable criteria conference outcomes from solicited feedback.
- Develop an educational forum that is specifically designed and packaged for use in their field of training.

**Challenges**

Probably one of the biggest challenges for the students was finding the time to meet with each other and establish a means of correspondence. This was partly achieved by a faculty mentor creating a discussion board for the groups. We had to formulate a meeting on the week-end for a dry run that all of the students could attend.

**Student Group Presentations**

- Healthy Smiles for Mothers and Young Children
- Pregnancy and Oral Hygiene
- Mothers to Be: Infants and Oral Health
- Toddlers and Oral Health
- Tooth Fairs and Other Creative Ideas: Partnering with Schools and Community Colleges

**Evaluation**

- Student workshop had highest scores from attendees.
- Blogs, free writing exercises, and post-event round table discussions were highly valued.

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