Challenging Global Health Perspectives with Nursing Internship Experiences

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Disclosure

- **Learning Objectives:**
  1. Discuss how to establish international clinical opportunities and
  2. Describe the development of global clinical nursing internship programs.

- **Conflict of interest statement:**
  I have no actual or potential conflict of interest in relation to this presentation.
Background on Global Opportunities

- Universities worldwide are actively engaged in establishing partnerships.

- Academic push to “Internationalize” the campus.

- Students are seeking global experiences as a component of their higher education curriculum.
Global Healthcare Opportunities

- Similar yet different:
  - Study abroad programs
  - Service learning programs
  - Clinical nursing internships

- Challenges presented include access to opportunities, language differences, practice differences... and cost!

- Benefits of experiences, as described in the literature as well as employers, are enormous.
Experiential Learning

- “Hands-on” clinical experiences require a collaborative effort with agreements.
  - University agreements required for research
  - Hospital and government agreements
  - Timeline agreements with clinical partners
- Terms and conditions documents
- Expectations defined
- Learning outcomes and evaluation
Establishing Partnerships

- International opportunities are waiting for the curious to discover!
- Networking in and around campus is a start – look for programs of research
- International research interests open doors to clinical nursing internship opportunities
- Ask yourself – “What is my vision of a global clinical internship experience?”
Establishing Partnerships

- Use every opportunity:
  - Attend meetings & conferences
  - Travel abroad, taking note of all health related information
  - Know the healthcare history of the areas you travel
  - Tour hospitals when you travel, bringing tokens from home
  - Make global friends a priority
The Common Plan

- Establish goals for the experience
- Identify benefits and risks, and develop a plan to measure and intervene
- Determine costs from all angles
- Verify stakeholder support and buy-in
- Adopt a curricular plan for the internship
- Timing of experience is critical! Make this work for everyone involved.
Growing Sustainable Internships

- Build a collaborative program that appeals to students, researchers, and across campus.
- Establish experiences by perceived value indicators of students.
- Manage the costs to make the experience affordable to the broadest group possible.
- Manage the risks from every angle!
- Seek development funds for scholarships.
Recommendations to Practice

- It all starts with a survey...
- Network with stakeholders, faculty, administrators, and the community.
- Actively attend and build collaborations at international conferences and meetings.
- Follow up with your connections
- Make noise...
Questions?

Thank you for your attention!