



Development and Implementation of National Service Learning Mission Trip

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Abstract

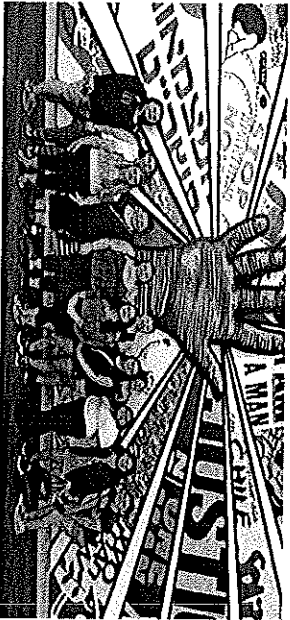
Purpose: To provide academic programs with information, lessons learned and current level of research on service learning and medical mission trips.

Sharing the value of national based trips is intended to provide programs with limited resources to consider alternate opportunities for their students.

Benefits of Service Learning

Body of research still emerging for nursing and alternate types of academic programs/focus - mostly on international efforts in nursing literature much promise shown in relation to:

- Development of active engaged citizens
- Chance to experience diversity in alternate settings
- Development of leadership skills
- Learning to care
- Development of social justice interests

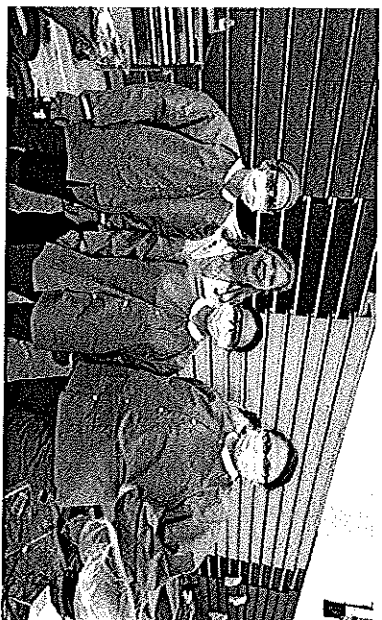


Service Learning and Medical Missions

Service Learning: Multiple definitions exist in academia and literature
This project used: "pedagogical approach that intentionally complements academic goals, provides enriching context for understanding abstract life, helps to develop civic and cultural diversity that explains local needs and real life/world situations"
Medical Missions: Any effort that strives to deliver health services to underserved and vulnerable populations in an accessible location over various timelines

Challenges and Resources

- Institutional challenges and resources:**
- Funding sources to support mission trip
- Clarity related to purpose: credit vs. non-credit, course vs. non-course based
- Approvals related to liability and insurance
- Student Center/Activities – Student Government Association
- Other challenges and resources:**
- Identifying organizations that accept nursing students
- Timing of trip in relation to academic activities
- Faculty that have experience in leading mission trips
- Local or regional foundations or charity organizations for funding
- Continuing Education for novice faculty



Lessons Learned

- Institutional Level:** Clarity regarding trip approval and funding sources
- Department/Program:** Value of buy in from all faculty: full time and adjunct
- Faculty Lead/Coordinator:** Need for partner from beginning to share workload
- Student Notification & Application Process:** High need for transparency and clear mechanism to answer questions or address concerns
- Mission Trip Orientation:** Timing is key – need to plan for questions and follow up to unanticipated questions and/or issues
- Students Experiences and Expectations:** Need to explore, support and manage – before, during and after mission trip

References

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3. American Association of Colleges of Nursing. (2019). *Nursing Workforce 2030: A Report to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services*. Washington, DC: American Association of Colleges of Nursing.

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