Strategies

Aim

The aim of the immersion for students of both colleges is to identify their shared professional values while practicing cultural humility during shared nursing educational experiences.

Background

- This program involves a three-year collaboration between a small Midwestern private Benedictine college and a private Methodist nursing school, which operates in a highly underserved community in Manila, Philippines.
- Filipino students are matched with senior-level American students in a 2-3-week clinical experience in a hospital in Manila to serve as translators and guides within the care setting.
- Clinical practice experiences include: OR, Labor and Delivery, ICU, ER, and medical-surgical floors.
- Community experiences include: pre-school screening and family feeding project and rural native needs assessment and population care.
- Faculty collaboration is enhanced by emphasizing shared professional and organizational values. In addition, a lead faculty is an alumni of one college while teaching at the other creating a strong bridge between organizations. This shared vision has allowed the pilot project to expand the length of the trip and to offer additional resources and faculty development opportunities supported financially by alumni.

Tools

1. Social Media to connect students to students and faculty to faculty before the trip.
2. Buddy system as a means to deepen relationships.
3. Shared living and meals including "Balut".
4. Explored educational and recreational activities together.
5. Filipino faculty taught and evaluated US students.
6. US faculty presented Evidence-Based in-service topic to faculty and hospital staff.
7. Student journals to reflect on growth and challenges.
8. Student blog to share experiences with public audience.
9. Debriefing to uncover and reflect on themes during experience.
10. Pilot testing of software and bandwidth to design future shared synchronous class projects.

Filipino Student Reflection: “The cultural differences add new dimensions in taking care of patients. We learn from them and they learn from us. . . . a lot of Filipinos are very happy seeing them because it is unusual to be taken care of by foreigners. They brought joy to the patients and also to the working area. The staff nurses enjoy talking to the CSS students even they are not so good in speaking English.”

American Student Reflection: “I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to participate in this experience. I am able to evaluate personal, professional, and cultural values that impact clinical decision making that are respectful of patients’ values and preferences after participating in this intercultural exchange.”

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Impact

Themes from Journals and Blogs

Student journals, blogs, and debriefings were reviewed to search for alignment. Themes in shared international professional values were discovered as students re-conceptualized care to maintain safety, apply evidence, promote spirituality, and adapt technology.