

Title:

Partnering With Students to Enhance the Pipeline of Future Nursing Researchers

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Session Title:

Engaging Non-Traditional and Innovative Partners Across the Nursing Research Process

Slot:

J 03: Saturday, 29 July 2017: 1:30 PM-2:45 PM

Scheduled Time:

2:10 PM

Keywords:

Nursing Research, Research partnerships and Undergraduate nursing students

References:

American Association of Colleges of Nursing. (2015). Nursing Faculty Shortage Fact Sheet. Retrieved 12/5/2016, from <http://www.aacn.nche.edu/media-relations/FacultyShortageFS.pdf>

Ortman, J. M., Velkoff, V. A., & Hogan, H. (2014). An aging nation: The older population in the United States. Current Population Reports Retrieved 12/5/2016, from <http://www.census.gov/prod/2014pubs/p25-1140.pdf>

Abstract Summary:

Research is an integral part of nursing practice, yet undergraduate nursing and high school students considering a career in nursing rarely have exposure to nursing research. This session describes the formation, implementation, and evaluation of a unique research partnership between rural BSN and local high school students.

Learning Activity:

LEARNING OBJECTIVES	EXPANDED CONTENT OUTLINE
The learner will be able to describe a unique partnership between a university nursing research club and high school designed to give early and direct opportunities to participate in research.	We will present the partnership development and implementation process, including information on the faculty-mentored, longitudinal research project conducted by the students.
The learner will be able to describe evaluation measures and study outcomes.	We will describe Debriefing for Meaningful Learning, the process used for formative and summative program evaluations.
The learner will be able to describe how program participation may influence nursing career trajectories.	We will present information on student research dissemination efforts and future plans.

Abstract Text:

Purpose: Research is an integral part of nursing practice, yet undergraduate nursing and high school students considering a career in nursing rarely have exposure to nursing research. Many of these students are capable of higher education, including the master's and doctoral level, but do not pursue this trajectory due to a variety of reasons, including a lack of awareness regarding nursing career options. Additionally, in rural South Carolina these students are often the first in their families to pursue any type of post-secondary education and have limited guidance in considering a graduate education. This has a direct impact on the number of nursing faculty available to teach future nurses. Currently US nursing schools turn away almost 69,000 qualified baccalaureate and graduate applicants annually due to faculty shortages (American Association of Colleges of Nursing, 2015), limiting the number of nurses available to care for our increasingly aging population (Ortman, Velkoff, & Hogan, 2014). Recruitment and support of students capable of performing nursing research and attaining a master's or doctoral degree is critical in assuring the future production of well-prepared, professional nurses. To provide an opportunity for early and direct engagement in research, we formed a nursing research club in partnership with a local high school and engaged high school and nursing students in a collaborative research project.

Methods: The collaborative project engaged BSN students (n=28) in faculty-mentored research in which they concurrently mentored local high school (HS) students (n=6) interested in health sciences careers. Students participated in a longitudinal, prospective research study of lung capacity among school band members (n=77). The BSN students recruited participants and obtained peak flow measurements using spirometry at the beginning and end of the school year. We conducted formative and summative program evaluations using Debriefing for Meaningful Learning.

Results: Both HS and BSN students reported having gained valuable knowledge on the research process, asthma and pulmonary function testing, leadership, and communication, in addition to other skills of value in health care delivery (i.e., patient engagement, documentation). Challenges identified included a need for role clarity. Follow-up engagement opportunities have included participation in local podium and poster research presentations by 1 BSN and 2 HS students. Participation in this mentored research program facilitated another BSN student's selection for a nursing internship.

Conclusions: This unique multi-level educational partnership allowed BSN students the opportunity to concurrently participate in research and concurrently serve as role-models of nurse researchers. Initial process evaluations revealed that opportunities to participate in research early in the academic trajectory can influence students in considering a career in nursing research.