

Georgetown Midwifery & WHNP Students Storm Capitol Hill: Experiential Learning of Advocacy Skills in Washington, DC

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GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

Disclosures

I have no conflicts of interest to disclose.



Objectives

- Understand the importance of health policy and innovative political participation learning activities that provide authentic experiences to students.
- Describe the preparation needed prior to an in-person visit to a legislator's office to successfully advocate for midwifery and women's health legislation.
- Discuss the experiences of students, faculty, and ACNM who proactively visit federal legislators on Capitol Hill and the influence of these visits on ACNM grassroots legislative efforts.

Importance of Health Policy

“
Nobody’s going to say:
‘Women have arrived,
let’s just move over.’
**IF YOU DON’T
HAVE A SEAT
AT THE TABLE,
YOU’RE PROBABLY
ON THE MENU.**
”

- Elizabeth Warren
ElizabethWarren.com @ElizabethforMA



In most countries...

Nurses & Midwives

ARE MORE THAN HALF TOTAL HEALTH WORKFORCE*

Nurses & Midwives bring **people-centred care** to the communities where they are needed, helping to improve health outcomes and deliver cost-effective services. An estimated **18 million more health workers**, primarily in low-resource settings, will be needed to attain high and effective coverage to ensure healthy lives for all by 2030.

Global strategies to strengthen Nursing & Midwifery



Education, collaboration & ongoing professional development



Effective policy, planning, leadership & governance



Strong regulation and scope of practice



Investment in workforce development

* Vision for Nursing & Midwifery towards #Workforce2030

Progress towards universal health coverage and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by ensuring equitable access to health workers within strengthened health systems

United Nations Commission on Health Employment & Economic Growth



HEALTH FOR ALL
UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE

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THE GLOBAL NETWORK OF WHO COLLABORATING CENTRES FOR NURSING AND MIDWIFERY

is an independent international not-for-profit network of Collaborating Centres from WHO's six regions, focusing on nursing and midwifery. Founded in 1988, the Network supports WHO's efforts toward universal health coverage.



2010 IOM Report

- Nurse and midwives should be full partners, with other health professionals, in redesigning healthcare in the United States
- Effective workforce planning and policy making require better data collection and an improved information infrastructure

Political Engagement

- Model of **causality reversed**

- Motivation is largely the result of engagement rather than the cause

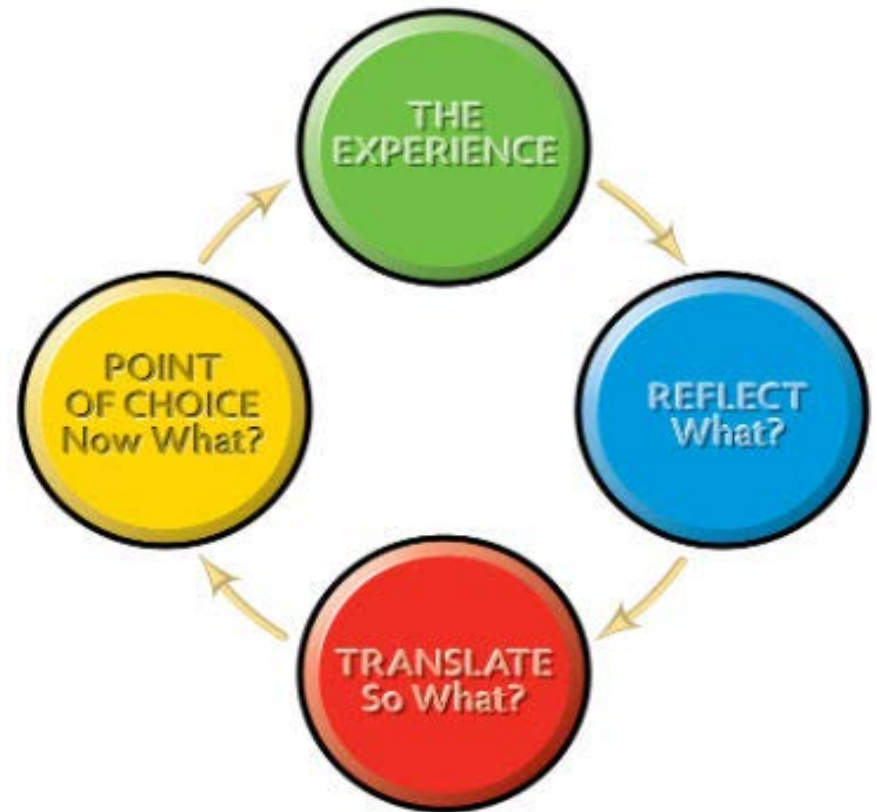
- Through political participation, students:

- Develop relationships that inspire and make demands
- Gain satisfactions otherwise unforeseen
- Begin to expand and reshape values and goals that lead to participation
- May shift sense of identity in the process



Learning Theories

- Causality reversed
- Experiential learning
 - Authentic work
 - Demystifies process
 - Conversation with a purpose
 - Midwife/WHNP voice exercised
- Service learning
 - Contribute to real world cause
 - Civic responsibility



Program & Institutional Support

- Time and energy to organize
- Consider school values
- School Lobbyist
 - After January 1, 2017, an organization employing in-house lobbyists is exempt from registration if its total expenses for lobbying activities does not exceed and is not expected to exceed \$13,000 during a quarterly period.



Student Learning Activities

- Pre-visit
 - Readings & webcasts
 - Make appointments
- Day of visit
 - Briefing with ACNM
 - Conduct visit
 - Provide written materials
- Post-visit
 - Thank you notes
 - ACNM Legislative Reporting form
 - Reflection
 - Connection to local affiliate



Meaningful Connections with Legislators & Their Staff

- Day of the visit
 - Update current ACNM federal legislative priorities that morning
 - Short 10-20 minute conversation with a purpose
 - Have list of co-sponsors for the “Ask”
 - Be ready to follow up



Meaningful Connections with ACNM

- Affiliate level
 - Continuity – connect with ACNM members in their district and state
 - ACNM State Fact Sheets
Being able to speak to your practice environment
 - Know how your local community benefits from action on federal issues
 - Presenting at an Affiliate meeting regarding the experience
- National level
 - Becoming active in ACNM legislative work
 - Keeping the membership engaged and empowered
 - Regular advocacy efforts by Georgetown students

Experiences



2016 Hill Visits: 114th Congress



2017 Hill Visits: 115th Congress



Red=January 2017
Blue=May 2017
Yellow=August 2017

Violet= Visited twice
Green= Visited 3 times

Thank you for your kind attention!



ANY
QUESTIONS?

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