Title:
Lessons Learned: The Importance of Building Partnerships When Starting an RN-to-BSN Program

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Session Title:
Education Posters Session 1

Keywords:
BSN, Curriculum and RN

References:


Abstract Summary:
This presentation will provide learners with a summary of key areas to consider when beginning a RN to BSN program. In order to have a successful program it is important to create seamless transitions between institutions. This presentation will discuss areas to considers including potential pitfalls and compromises.

Learning Activity:

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<tr>
<th>LEARNING OBJECTIVES</th>
<th>EXPANDED CONTENT OUTLINE</th>
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<td>1) The learner will be able to identify potential obstacles to a smooth transition from an associate degree nursing program to a RN to BSN program and ways to overcome them.</td>
<td>The learner will be able to state that there may be problems with financial aid between the two programs, differences in grading scales that make grade calculation difficult,</td>
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determining minimum GPA based on the standard of another school

| The learner will be able to identify key individuals that will be important to a successful partnership relationship and plans to engage them. |
| The learner will be able to discuss the importance of working with the advisors between schools, financial aid officers, Deans and Directors |

Abstract Text:

The Institutes of Medicine’s recommendation that 80% of registered nurse be baccalaureate prepared by 2020 has increased the number of RN to BSN programs that are available. McEwen, M., Pullis, B. R., White, M. J., & Krawtz, S. (2013) Several states have moved to state wide associate degree curricula to make the transition to a baccalaureate degree simpler. Pennington, K., Jarrett, S., & Berg, B. (2013)

Our college received a $15,000 Promise grant to increase the number of registered nurse in our area. The funding was dedicated to streamlining the process of admitting associate degree student to the RN to BSN program. Through collaborative partnerships with technical colleges curricular plans have been developed to allow student to complete liberal arts requirements while they wait for admission into the associate degree program. Also, concurrent RN to BSN course are offered during the last semesters of the associate degree program.

Through the process of developing this program the college has learned many important lessons to be considered when setting up a concurrent program. Differences in grading scales from one institution to another and how these will be translated. Some of the financial aid challenges, when a student is enrolled in two institutions. Financial barriers were also seen in the LEAP project, a HRSA grant designed to accomplish similar goals. Swearingen, C. D., Clarke, P. N., Gatua, M. W., & Sumner, C. C. (2013). Lastly, collaborating with faculty to determine the appropriate admission criteria and grade point average for the program based on the mission and goals of the program.

The goals of this presentation will be to provide an update on the successes of this program in creating a new seamless track for two technical colleges to pursue a baccalaureate degree. And to share the lessons we have learned along the way to help another school have a smoother transition with hopefully less resources expended.