

Title:

The Live Event: Show Time!

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Session Title:

Advancing Nursing Research, Education, and Practice Through a Regional Chapter Collaborative

Slot:

G 17: Monday, 30 October 2017: 1:15 PM-2:30 PM

Scheduled Time:

1:35 PM

Keywords:

Audience engagement, Global message and Research and innovation

References:

1. Hockensmith, P. L. (2016, September). Impact of Presidential Succession on Local Chapter Leadership in an International Honor Society. In *Leadership Connection 2016 (17-20 September)*. STTI.
2. Saylor, J., & Graber, J. (2016). Influence Through Lifelong Learning: Membership Engagement Advances the Nursing Profession.
3. Vermeulen, H. (2016). Continuing professional development across the nursing career: a lifespan perspective on CPD motives and learning activities. *Nederlands Tijdschrift voor Evidence Based Practice*, 14(4), 8-9.

Abstract Summary:

This session will offer strategies on how to organize a two day STTI regional nursing program schedule of speakers and topics that will appeal to a diverse nursing audience and keep them engaged throughout the event.

Learning Activity:

LEARNING OBJECTIVES	EXPANDED CONTENT OUTLINE
Describe how to structure a regional nursing program conference schedule that will attract the nursing student as well as the seasoned nurse.	A. Key note speakers who have a global message, including topic examples B. Research and innovative break-out sessions, separated into leadership, clinical practice or an education focus C.

	Poster sessions that are organized based upon research or innovation project
Identify strategies for engaging the conference audience from start to finish.	A. Welcome and overview of STTI by Odyssey conference chairperson B. Break-out sessions - ability to select all or part based upon personal interests C. Allotted time for Q & A after each session D. Raffle prizes distributed at the end of each day, with raffle tickets given out for nursing student participation and for those who "tweet" about the conference
Discuss some of the finer points that result in a smoother running conference.	A. Seamless registration, conference evaluation and CE certificate process B. Use of timers and moderators for common and break-out session C. Prepared speaker bios for introduction purposes D. Ample and appealing breakfast, lunch and snacks E. Dedicated technology expert F. Debriefing at end of the day

Abstract Text:

Background: The members of the Odyssey Planning Committee are dedicated volunteers from 15 of the STTI Southern California chapters. Because members work in the communities that they represent, they are in the unique position of identifying and understanding the needs of their fellow nurses and nursing students. This familiarity and knowledge allows members to offer continuing education and networking opportunities that address those specific needs. Fulfilling our individual conference planning committee roles and working together towards a greater common goal culminates in our ability to produce a successful and stimulating regional nursing conference on an annual basis.

Methods: Hosting this two-day conference on a Thursday-Friday in either October or November, and in the city of Ontario, CA, USA has shown that this nursing event can be offered at a reasonable price and at a location that attracts a diverse audience of nurses (nursing students, faculty and other RNs who work in a variety of roles). In order to meet the learning needs of this diverse group, the conference has typically planned for common sessions, break-out sessions and poster sessions. Key note speakers have often incorporated STTI values into their presentations and/or addressed important issues that affect nursing as a profession. Break-out session presenters have had the opportunity to share their current research or an innovative project that stems from a nursing school, hospital or community setting. Nursing students, as well as seasoned nurses have been break-out session speakers and poster presenters.

Results: Having a dedicated and collegial organization that is made up of 15 STTI southern California chapters is a terrific vehicle for putting on a conference that promotes scholarship, leadership and service, the key values of Sigma Theta Tau International. It is of particular importance to up and coming young nurses who will someday be tomorrow's nurse leaders. On each day of the conference, there are two keynote speakers, 12 - 16 podium presenters and 30 -40 poster presentations. The conference proceeding materials list all of the abstracts for oral and poster sessions and thus, attendees have a resource and point of contact for each session. During the closing session, attendees are asked to share what they've learned, as well as what they feel have been the highlights of the program. Many of the attendees leave this conference feeling inspired, energized and ready to apply what they've learned into practice.

Conclusion: Organizing and conducting an annual research and education regional conference whose planning committee consists of a large number of STTI chapters is not only feasible, it is doable and sustainable. This particular organization has had a significant amount of experience putting on a conference that is a joint venture among STTI chapters in the southern California region and could easily serve in a consultant role for others interested in putting on a similar program.