Promoting Nursing Honors Education Sustainability through Best Practices

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Introduction/Background
- Nursing honors programs (NHP) provide faculty an excellent forum for cultivating the next generation of nurse leaders, researchers, and scholars through high engagement experiences
- NHP face complex and multifaceted challenges
- Silo structures, limited formal collaborative opportunities, and a paucity of literature or formal guidelines leave nursing honors leaders with limited guidance for developing or sustaining quality programs
- Significant and rapid growth of a Nursing Honors Scholar Program across 3 campuses (Denton, Dallas, and Houston, Texas) yielded valuable outcomes, yet threatened the program’s sustainability

Strategic Initiatives
- Develop Nursing Honors Curriculum:
  - Facilitate completion of honors graduation requirements
  - Provide faculty workload credit
- Strategic Honors Capstone Experiences that:
  - Maximize the honors experience through deliberate integration of honors tenets: leadership, scholarship, service, and research
  - Yield increased mutually beneficial outcomes to students, faculty, the university, College of Nursing and community partners
  - Are faculty-driven, increasing productivity, purpose, recognition, and satisfaction
- Formalize program on Houston Campus
- Ongoing formal honors faculty development initiatives to promote faculty excellence and professional goal attainment
- Establish Honors Faculty Designation Program that increases faculty motivation and productivity
- Identify new funding sources
- Establish formal processes for documenting and disseminating outcomes
- Establish a Faculty Incentive Program to increase productivity and facilitate honors diploma completion.

Outcomes
- Nursing Honors Faculty Team established
- Program formalized on Houston campus
- Sustainability plan developed and initiated
- Nursing Honors Curriculum developed
- Broad base support obtained across 3 campuses
- Nursing initiatives adopted by the University Honors Scholar Program, benefiting all disciplines
- Increased faculty opportunities and satisfaction

Purpose
Establish a sustainability plan for the Nursing Honors Scholar Program by leading, developing, and coalescing a team of faculty across the university’s 3 campuses

Key Concepts
- Empowerment of faculty
- Data driven and inclusive decision making
- Research on identified best practices
- Alignment with Texas Woman's University (TWU) & College of Nursing (CON) strategic plans
- Processes that increase productivity, efficiency, and mutually beneficial meaningful outcomes

Next Steps – Looking to the Future
- Implementation of strategic initiatives
- Develop honors program for transfer students
- Identify & mentor new Nursing Honors faculty
- Increase networking opportunities and resources for Nursing Honors at the national level
- Nursing honors research initiatives
- Increase collaborative honors experiences with other nursing honors programs

2017 TWU Nursing Honors Students

Future Leaders, Scholars, and Researchers

TWU Nursing Honors Faculty and ENFLA Faculty

Nursing Honors Study Abroad