

DEVELOPING STUDENTS TO INFLUENCE GLOBAL HEALTHCARE

SHARON K BYRNE DNP, RN, APN, FNP-C, AOCNP, CNE



Background

- The popularity of global health study abroad experiences has skyrocketed
- Immersions offer students the opportunity to learn and deliver healthcare under the auspicious of faculty or programs
- TCNJ Department of Nursing developed an academic-NGO partnership to promote sustainability and capacity building in its' outreach within a host country while at the same time develop nursing students to influence global healthcare
- An experienced faculty member who volunteered with the NGO developed a Perspectives in Global Health course in consultation with the colleges' Center for Global Engagement, Liberal Learning Program Council and a Professor in the Department of Philosophy and Social Sciences with expertise in Environmental Ethics, Ethical Theory and Human Rights in International Relations which strengthened the nursing departments' curriculum



Methods

- Students participate in elective course in an on-line synchronous and asynchronous format where they are exposed to ethical reasoning, philosophical views related to the human right to health and international humanitarian health law
- Nature and source of a variety of global health issues are viewed through this lens and applied to case studies, dialogs and other modes of learning prior to experiential learning
- Emphasis is placed on preparing the nursing students to engage in global health to improve access and quality of care for vulnerable patients and address health issues using a patient, community-centered, culturally sensitive model of care
- Undergraduate junior and senior level nursing students, undergraduate public health students and graduate level primary care adult gerontology and family nurse practitioner and faculty participate in a pre-departure orientation by the lead faculty member and the partnering NGO representative to review cultural implications related to the country they will visit and address safety and travel ramifications
- Advocacy, prevention and health promotion, and collaboration are part of the focus of the outreach

Outcomes

- Teams of have partnered with a regionally based NGO and Haitian healthcare workers to address health and wellness needs of a underserved Haitian community
- To date a panel of over 750 individuals have been seen at three different community settings within Port a Prince, Croix-des-Bouquets and Petit Goâve
- Working with the Haitian American Caucus and NGO promotes sustainability between primary care clinics
- Common physical and psychological conditions have been addressed as well as those specific to the subtropical environment such as filiarisis lymphadenitis, intestinal parasites, malaria and typhoid.
- Debriefing activities are held daily with the entire team and focus on reflective practice

Conclusions

- Meeting course and study abroad objectives contribute to nursing and public students' personal development of cultural humility which is a keystone of a liberal education
- Professional development of students in primary care focused nursing and public health interventions through outreach also assist in meeting the needs of a vulnerable global community served