Title:
Advocating and Sustaining Lifelong Learning Through a Center of Excellence Approach

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Session Title:
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References:


Abstract Summary:
A school of nursing in Texas conceived the Center of Excellence in Evidence-Based Practice to address strategies to bridge gaps, establish relationships to address workforce needs, and support connectiveness between different groups. This presentation will present exemplars which can be employed to address challenges encountered by nursing and communities.

Learning Activity:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LEARNING OBJECTIVES</th>
<th>EXPANDED CONTENT OUTLINE</th>
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<tr>
<td>The learner will be able to discuss key aspects concerning the establishment of a center of excellence to promote safe and effective health care.</td>
<td>* Criteria for establishing a center of excellence * Steps to take for ensuring a foundation for the center</td>
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<td>The learner will be able to identify strategies for addressing challenges encountered in health care through the use of a center of excellence.</td>
<td>* Strategies which could be used within a center of excellence * Efforts used to sustain a center of excellence * Patterns for managing challenges encountered * Management of networking and partnerships</td>
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Abstract Text:
The term "Center of Excellence" (COE) is used to designate a group or team organized toward addressing a distinct sphere of focus, such as a technology, skill or discipline (Haughn, 2015). Within the evolving world of healthcare, COEs have developed to address health issues and attempt to close the research/practice gaps identified. An overview of the values associated with COEs along with key concepts and models used within COEs will be provided. Centers of Excellence can be developed to address any sphere of focus that is paramount within health care and/or the area.

A school of nursing in West Texas conceived the Center of Excellence in Evidence-Based Practice (CEEBP) to address innovative strategies to bridge the practice/research gaps, establish relationships to
address the nursing and community workforce needs, and supports the connectiveness between different 
groups. Many approaches have been used such as continuing education events, evidence-based practice 
opportunities, mentorship measures, and consultation endeavors to develop a COE that is sustainable 
while advocating for knowledge transformation and lifelong learning within the healthcare 
community. This presentation will present various exemplars of tactics which can be employed to address 
the challenges encountered by the nursing professional and communities (Price, 2014). Patterns will be 
discussed related to reasonable and practical tactics for managing the challenges encountered in the 
work environment by healthcare providers and communities interested in addressing their health 
environments. The examples will embrace the expectation that networking is required to embody the 
local, state, and national community of healthcare, especially within the area of evidence-based practice. 
Mentoring and partnerships are key to ensuring the sustainability.

From this discussion and examples, the participants will be challenged to envision the use of COEs as a 
fresh and inventive measure for addressing a wide range of healthcare concerns and settings. The 
inclination for partnerships with community organizations will be championed to expound schemes which 
can be customized for integration into other settings.