



# Advocating and Sustaining Lifelong Learning Through a Center of Excellence Approach

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## Purpose

- Centers of Excellence (COE) – a group or team organized toward addressing a distinct sphere of focus (Haughn, 2015)
- Developed to address health issues and close research/practice gaps



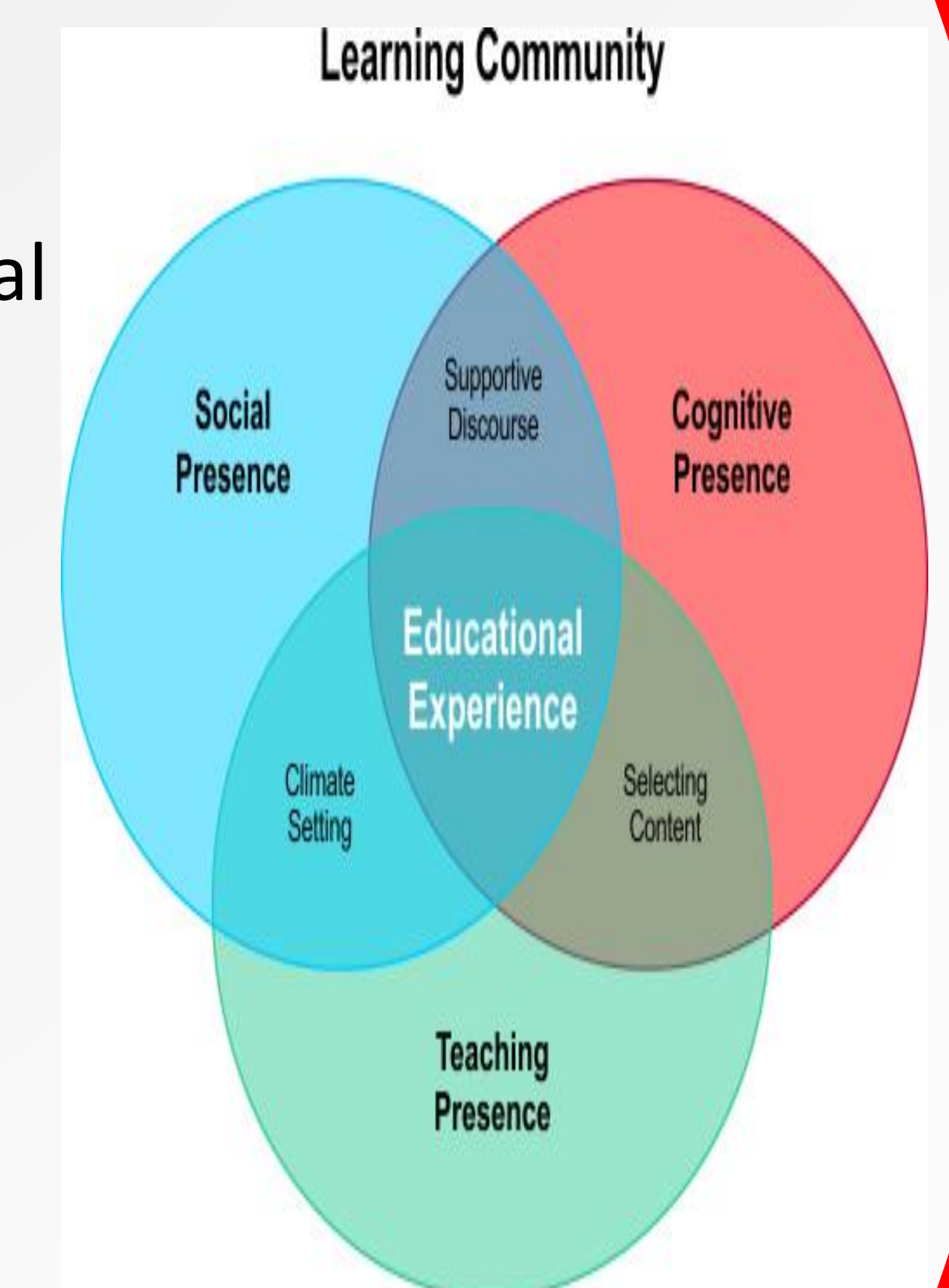
## Key Concepts and Models

- Advantages – efficiency, consistency, practicality, and career advancement
- Cost containment
- Flexibility
- Culture of quality
- Define a common set of best practices and work standards
- Assess the maturity of any plans against the evidence
- Provide direct guidance and support



## Discussion

- Bridge practice/research gaps
- Establish relationship to address nursing and community workforce needs
- Support connectiveness between different groups
- Activities can include:
  - Continuing education events
  - Evidence-based practice opportunities
  - Mentorship measures
  - Consultation endeavors
  - Academy of Inquisitive Thinking
- Networking with local, state, and national communities essential
- Mentoring and partnerships key to sustainability
- Partnerships
  - Create a shared vision and mission
  - Each partner's needs/expectations must be addressed
  - Handle disagreements/frustrations early
  - Support partnership's limitations
  - Define job roles including accountability
  - Consider what is beyond what's on the table
  - Be sure and clear on the why of the partnership
  - Do not rush the process
  - Expect to be uncomfortable at times
  - Seek the WIN/WIN as much as possible



## Conclusion

- Consider innovative ideas to address the developing community challenges
- Look for new partnerships that could be developed
- Open your thoughts to the possibilities of change and advancement