A Community Engaged Learning Pedagogical Approach to Population Health and Primary Prevention

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Community Engaged Learning

- Community Engagement is a signature experience for the students at The College of New Jersey.
- Allows students to apply their additional knowledge and enhanced skills to address a community need, as well as develop their own civic skills and clinical skills through an experiential learning opportunity.
- Projects are guided by the learning objectives of the course as well as the needs of the community.
Community Engaged Learning

- Students in their sophomore year spend 25 hours participating in community engagement in a variety of settings.
- Building on their core content in nursing health assessment, nutrition and lifespan classes.
- Allows the students to care for populations in the community setting that they would typically see in the outpatient settings with chronic conditions.
Community Engaged Learning

- Develop patient communication skills with various age groups.
- Practice health promotion and disease prevention.
- Increase awareness for the relevant health issues of rural underserved communities.
Community Engaged Learning

- Students projects varied:
- Health Break, students had opportunity to work with individuals with intellectual disabilities in the CCS program. CCS is a college-based program designed for students with intellectual disabilities ages 18-25.
- Together the programs facilitator and the students provided the CCS students with self-esteem, stress reduction and coping techniques.
Community Engaged Learning

• Healthy walking club and/or a gym buddy for students in CCS with differing abilities on the college campus.

• Engaged in the local public school system where childhood obesity and Type II diabetes is prevalent, in a program known as SNACK (Smart Nutrition and Collaboration for Kids).

• TASK (the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen) where they served meals, taught health lessons, performed screenings, and assisted in teaching various topics to students who were earning their GED.
Community Engaged Learning

- Dawn of Hope Project whose program is designed to provide practical instruction to girls in critical areas such as character development, building self-esteem, embracing their identity, life skills, health and wellness.
  - The students provided educational information sessions on various topics related to health and wellness as well as self-esteem.
- Project Teach A comprehensive educational program which provides pregnant and parenting adolescents with the skills needed to create a positive life for themselves and their children.
  - Students provided breastfeeding and parenting classes to teen mothers.
Community Engaged Learning

- Each project aimed at:
  - Improved communication skills
  - Community engagement
  - Building on nursing assessment skills
  - Improved patient education skills
  - Health related issues within a community setting
  - Improve health promotion and disease prevention skills
  - Opportunities to work with all age groups
  - Opportunities to work with individuals with differing abilities.
Community Engaged Learning

- Faculty benefit from this type of educational/clinical setting.
  - New opportunities for research and publication via new relationships between faculty and community partners.
  - Networking opportunities with engaged faculty in other disciplines or institutions as well as other healthcare professionals.
Community Engaged Learning

- Students benefit from this type of educational/clinical setting.
  - Students acquire the ability to apply what they have learned in “the real world”
    - Improved social responsibility
    - Improved citizenship skills
    - Connections with professionals and community members allow for learning and career opportunities
  - Improve assessment and clinical skills.