



**TCNJ**

THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY

# **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.