

Introduction and Purpose

- There is a call for academic nursing to cultivate teaching strategies which prepare future nurses for the changing healthcare practice
- The AACN (2016) has challenged nursing academia to develop programs and curricula that incorporate opportunities for undergraduate nursing students to interact with other disciplines in a collaborative manner for joint planning and shared decision making
- Service learning (SL) and interprofessional education (IPE) experiences can advance student learning outside traditional classroom boundaries and unify professional values and beliefs
- **PURPOSE:** For the purpose of this service learning project, undergraduate nursing and construction management students partnered to design and construct a natural playground for a local child care center

Methods

- Undergraduate Nursing and Construction Management students partnered in teams during two semesters of a Pediatric Nursing course (n = 81; 14 total teams)
- Teams were required to:

1

- Work collaboratively, apply principles of their respective professions, and develop/present a professional proposal for a natural playscape

2

- Create a developmentally appropriate activity and participate in playdates with children at the child care center

3

- Complete three written reflection journals and one culminating video journal

4

- Participate in the construction of the selected playground design

5

- Submit anonymous surveys to discuss the efficacy of combined SL and IPE as an educational strategy for nursing students



Student Reflection

"Just like with anything else in life, you are going to have to work with others that do not have the same amount of motivation, the same values, attitudes, or goals as you.... This is not going to be the last time I am put in this kind of situation, so I look at it as a learning experience."

"I think that service is an awesome way to learn more about a subject. While BCM is very different from nursing, it makes me appreciate other disciplines and I think makes students more well-rounded in general."

"Group work can be difficult just because you are relying on others to do their share of the project on their own time. Group work builds patience, improves communication skills, and helps you to see other viewpoints."

Results

Perceived Outcomes

Application of growth and development knowledge

"To implement the developmental information we learned in lecture into an actual playground was cool."

Enhanced communication skills

"It has made me more familiar with how to communicate with other professions that may not be familiar with healthcare."

Increased adaptability

"It showed me that in almost everything we do, teamwork is a huge aspect. Whether it was trying to brainstorm final ideas for the playground, or figuring out who was completing each part of the PowerPoint presentation, teamwork was very important."

Improved teamwork/ collaborative skills



Recommendations

- Combined SL and IPE has proven to be an innovative teaching strategy
- The project appears to be a worthwhile method to enhance interprofessional communication and collaboration, adaptability/flexibility skills, and application of growth and development, while positively impacting the community
- IPE should not be restricted to like-minded disciplines and majors; working with differing majors presents real world challenges



References



- This was my first exposure to using social media professionally. I was skeptical. It gave me high school flash backs. I had no idea that so many prof organizations used twitter
- Or your lunch break or in the elevator or every other time you pull out your phone. It made my social media more useful .Instead of scrolling through Facebook which is senseless information I scrolled through twitter and actually learned something
- I think it was a good practice because we were able to bounce those ideas and comments off one another. Translate to other social media. When we see articles on other sites, we can use our professional voice

