

NURSING SCIENCE

Chair receives tobacco cessation grant

Associate Professor Brenda Lenz, chair of Nursing Science, was granted \$119,455 by ClearWay Minnesota. (See p. 30.)

2007 Student Research Colloquium participation:

Thirty-one students, 8 presentations, 3 sponsors

Student-led process results in hospital changes

An exploration of the outcomes of effective oral hygiene has resulted in hospital-wide staff education, purchase of new products to facilitate effective oral hygiene, and development of an oral care protocol at St. Cloud Hospital.

The exploration, undertaken by students in their senior leadership course, was a collaboration with St. Cloud Hospital and other agencies' nurses to assist in the development of policies for the hospital using current evidence practice guidelines.

The students examined the oral hygiene outcomes of patients from infancy to geriatrics, from the emergency room to the operating room, and from intensive care units to oncology units.

Findings revealed that patients throughout the hospital would benefit from a more rigorous protocol of routine oral hygiene to prevent complications from illnesses.

A second student-led, evidence-based practice project focused on the risk of medical/surgical adult patients with diagnosed sleep apnea receiving anesthesia and/or analgesia.

Early identification and tracking of patients with sleep apnea will assist healthcare providers to incorporate the most effective treatment for these patients.

"It has been beneficial for the hospital to incorporate the evidence-based practice process into multiple areas," said Associate Professor Joyce Simones, who teaches the leadership course,

The process is an orderly one. Based on evaluative data, hospital staff and nursing students identify an area of concern in need of a policy. Divided into small work groups, the students then look for evidence-based information, which is found in the nursing literature, best practice around the nation, research studies and expert analysis.

Using standard hospital templates, students then draft a policy and present the draft to various nursing committees

for suggestions and revisions. Based on their feedback, the draft is revised and given to a point person within the hospital for final editing and approval.

Immersion in South Africa

In February 2008, Associate Professor Joan Wilcox accompanied nine students to South Africa where they undertook their senior capstone clinical immersion through Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University.

Working in groups of three, the student RNs rotated through a number of public hospitals and made home visits in the townships. Wilcox said the students were prepared to nurse AIDS and TB patients, common in the women's medical wards, and to experience the midwifery and obstetrics units, which are entirely managed by female nurses. Intensive care, neurosurgery, oncology and emergency units were also on the rotation, which ended in mid-April.

Use of clinical simulations expanded

Simulations created by Associate Professors Joan Wilcox and Joyce Simones with funding from a 2006 MnSCU grant were revised for use in NURS 406: Nursing Leadership and Management.

The original simulations gave students opportunity to respond with "culturally sensitive care" to a variety of scenarios they are likely to encounter in their professional practice in central Minnesota.

As with the originals, the revised simulations are being used collaboratively with the St. Cloud Technical College LPN students. Central Lakes College will also use the revised scenarios with their LPN and RN students.

Service learning is component of nursing courses

Three St. Cloud group homes for mentally ill adults partnered with the department to receive the companionship of Nursing 312 students during spring 2007.

This service learning component of Mental Health Nursing was taught by Associate Professor Darlene Copley, who said it "proved very beneficial to the partner and students."

The students participated in recreational activities with the residents and were often asked to stay for a meal to "give the residents practice in having company," she added.

Service learning projects are also components of Nursing 402 and 315.

Mary Hoenig, Associate Professor. M.S. 1965, University of Colorado-Boulder.

complementary/alternative interventions in care of clients with chronic malignant pain, strategies for student success

Certification/Licensure

Chemotherapy

Brenda Lenz, Associate Professor. Ph.D. 2002, University of Minnesota.

adolescents and young adults, behavior change, tobacco use and cessation

Certification/Licensure

Registered Nurse, Public Health Nurse

Publications

Lenz, Brenda K. and P. Barnard. Advancing Evidence-Based Practice in Rural Nursing. Journal of Staff Development. Publication date pending.

Grants

\$119,455 for Capacity of New Nurses Entering Minnesota Workforce to Impact Tobacco Cessation. From ClearWay Minnesota (formerly Minnesota Partnership for Action Against Tobacco), 2006 – 2008.

Joyce Simones, Associate Professor. Ed.D. 2005, St. Mary's University, Winona.

current clinical practice of home care nurses following the prospective payment system of 2000, family presence during resuscitation, patients using telehome monitoring, self efficacy of heart failure

Certification/Licensure

Registered Nurse

Publications

Simones, Joyce. Adapting to a Prospective Payment System. Home Healthcare Nurse, 26 (3) 151 – 157.

Simones, Joyce. Creating a Simulated Home Care Lab. Journal of Nursing Education. Publication date pending.

Susan Johnson Warner, Professor. Ed.D. 1985, University of South Dakota.

child health, health policy, leadership, Native American health, rural health

Certification/Licensure

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