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237550 Infusing research, service, and education through community engagement

Sunday, October 30, 2011

Deborah Reed, RN, PhD, College of Nursing, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY
Susan Jones, PhD RN, School of Nursing, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, KY
Sherry R. Lovan, PhD, RN, School of Nursing, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, KY
Donita Lashley, MA, CHES, South Central Area Health Education Center, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, KY
Deborah Claunch, BBA, College of Nursing, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

Background: Nurses provide care to residents and workers of America's 2.2 million farms .This report illustrates how three components of nursing education were interwoven across multiple research projects and educational units and principled by community stakeholder engagement. Description: Two NIOSH-funded studies provided the opportunity to engage undergraduate nursing students and faculty at two universities and the regional AHEC to explore health promotion theories, engage in research and service, and learn about agricultural health/ safety and how it applies to nursing practice. Each institution had a unique role in the project. Involvement included development, delivery, and evaluation of instructional interventions at Progressive Agriculture Foundation Safety Days. Lessons Learned: The mix of research, education, and community organizations produced a tapestry of interdisciplinary work that quickly permeated nursing practice, education, and community service that initially reached 553 members of a rural community. The symbiotic interaction between the two nursing education programs yielded valuable service-learning and research products than could not have been achieved without the students' participation. On follow up, students indicated they applied their new knowledge to practice after graduation and the Safety Day incorporated new techniques. Recommendation: Faculty should look for new opportunities within communities to coordinate and maximize learning and service experiences. Nurses, particularly those practicing in rural areas, need to be properly informed about the health hazards of agriculture in order to provide culturally competent care. Students' knowledge of agricultural hazards, culture, and research may help them in practice as they encounter farm families.

Learning Areas:

Conduct evaluation related to programs, research, and other areas of practice
 Diversity and culture
 Implementation of health education strategies, interventions and programs
 Occupational health and safety
 Planning of health education strategies, interventions, and programs
 Public health or related nursing

Learning Objectives:

Describe a novel approach to public health nursing education that uses research and service learning as focal points.

Keywords: Community-Based Public Health, Nursing Education

Presenting author's disclosure statement:

Qualified on the content I am responsible for because: I am the PI for the projects engaged in this report.

Any relevant financial relationships? No

I agree to comply with the American Public Health Association Conflict of Interest and Commercial Support Guidelines, and to disclose to the participants any off-label or experimental uses of a commercial product or service discussed in my presentation.

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800 I Street, NW Washington, DC 20001-3710 (Ph) 202-777-APHA (Fax) 202-777-2534

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