

Insights into an Academic Practice Partnership – When Both Sides Work Together

DNP Student: Sarah A. Olson, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC
DNP Scholarly Chair: Dr. Bonnie Nickasch, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC
University of Wisconsin Oshkosh College of Nursing

Introduction

- Historical records trace collaborative practice partnerships back to France in 1633
- In 2010, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) released the *Future of Nursing* report calling for initiatives to redesign nursing education
- A Midwestern College of Nursing and a local healthcare organization did not have a formal academic practice partnership specific to the DNP scholarly project
- The focus of this scholarly project was to develop and implement an effective academic practice partnership between the Midwestern College of Nursing and the local healthcare organization to decrease struggles and streamline successful completion of DNP scholarly projects

Method

- IRB approval was obtained
- A qualitative interview was conducted with eleven DNP scholarly project chairpersons at the Midwestern College of Nursing
- A newly developed logic model was outlined to guide the academic practice partnership
- A streamlined process for project implementation, completion and dissemination was developed
- Three fulltime DNP-FNP students from the Midwestern College of Nursing (who are also employees of the local healthcare organization) agreed to pilot the partnership starting Fall 2019
- Five months after the start of the newly developed Academic Practice Partnership qualitative and quantitative data was collected from the DNP students and DNP scholarly project chairpersons

Results

(Pre-Partnership Qualitative Interview Themes)

Underdeveloped relationships

- “there doesn’t appear to be a streamline approach to getting these students into the organization”

Misunderstood approval process

- “...IRB doesn’t need to scrutinize this as a formal research study even though they do go through IRB approval”

Gaps in communication

- “Some, many issues with communication – people weren’t getting back to the students after repeated attempts using multiple modalities to get in touch with the person....”

Lack of projects that are mutually beneficial

- “...hospitals could say these are kind of our goals or our big things we’re working on, and then maybe at the beginning...say here’s a list of projects that [local agency] wants worked on...”

Results

(Pilot Study Qualitative and Quantitative Data)

Quantitative Results (N=3; n=3)

100% of the students in the pilot **agreed or strongly agreed** they were satisfied with the:

- College of Nursing orientation received prior to the initiation of the DNP scholarly project
- Support received from health care organization stakeholders
- Results of the DNP Scholarly Project
- Support received from the College of Nursing Scholarly Project Chairperson
- Implementation plan for the DNP Scholarly Project

100% of the students in the pilot **disagreed or strongly disagreed** they were dissatisfied with the:

- Health care organization orientation received prior to the initiation of the DNP scholarly project
- Support received from the health care organization nurse scientist
- Dissemination plan for the DNP Scholarly Project

Qualitative Results

- Students had three suggestions for improvement;**
- **earlier implementation of the project**
 - **more freedom on project choice**
 - **wishing the project was a little farther ahead**

Conclusion

- It is the hope of this author, that the academic practice partnership will be of value and will create partnerships with other healthcare organizations all while creating a partnership that will become sustainable for years to come
- Future Recommendations:
 - Continue the partnership with a larger number of students
 - Enroll DNP-FNP part-time students into the partnership
 - Enroll DNP-CRNA students into the partnership
 - Collect data from the local healthcare nurse scientists
 - Develop a similar partnership with other healthcare organizations