

Nursing Education: From Classrooms to Computers – NMNEC’s Collaborative Problem-Solving during the Pandemic

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Introduction

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the New Mexico Nursing Education Consortium (NMNEC) recognized the critical need for collaboration among the participating state-funded schools. NMNEC is a collaborative of state- or tribal-funded nursing programs with a common pre-licensure nursing curriculum that supports multiple pathways into nursing. Program directors from the pre-licensure NMNEC schools met virtually each week and shared ideas and resources that contributed to the necessary changes in delivery of nursing program didactic and clinical content during the pandemic.

Approach

Based on the virtual meetings of the NMNEC Program Directors, nine sets of meeting minutes formed the foundation for analysis of data to arrive at the five specific categories. Specific dates of the meetings and related minutes include:

- March 19 & 25, 2020
- April 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29, 2020
- May 6 & 20, 2020



Findings & Conclusions

Five specific categories identified are:

- (1) Timing & Flexibility: Campus closures and decisions to defer nursing students from clinical sites
- (2) Collaboration & Preparation: Development of online teaching-learning activities without interruption of course objectives
- (3) Unconventional Teaching during the Pandemic: Delivery of on-line clinicals with virtual simulations.
- (4) Helping & Altruism: Knowing that we are in this situation together
- (5) Illumination: Enlightens our abilities to move forward in continued collaboration

Outcomes

Outcomes of the collaborative meetings include development of a repository of faculty resources and webinars for use during the COVID-19 pandemic, found as a link on NMNEC’s website (nmnec.org).

Implications

Further themes, exemplars, and outcomes will be explored and shared. Our NMNEC team continues to work towards providing nursing colleagues in New Mexico and across the United States with evidence of effective problem-solving strategies. As a result, nursing faculty can successfully guide students through nursing education during this pandemic.

Plans for the Future

The importance of sharing teaching strategies and problem-solving is paramount at this time. This poster presentation will be expanded into a publication intended for nurse educators, researchers, and scholars.

References & Contact Information

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