Interdisciplinary Team Approach to Educating Future Healthcare Leaders: TTUHSC QEP Course and the Clarion Competition

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Background
All health professions programs share a common goal, no matter what the discipline - to produce knowledgeable, caring, compassionate and effective healthcare providers. Achieving this goal has become more challenging in recent decades, as the medical knowledge continues to expand and the healthcare system continues to become more complex. In order to ensure the best outcome for patients, health profession programs must not only ensure that students attain necessary knowledge but also ensure that they develop into effective healthcare providers and future leaders.

Introduction
The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools’ (SACS) Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) guidelines provide an outline for:
1. Assessing, planning, developing, and implementing institutional quality enhancement plan (QEP)
2. Improving student learning via QEP and evaluating the outcomes

As part of the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) currently offers an elective QEP course which brings together HSC students in various healthcare programs and provide them with opportunities to work together.

The course was established with the support of faculty from each school within the health sciences center and provides students with team-based learning opportunities in patient centered care, interprofessional teamwork, communication, leadership, and quality improvement.

The course also includes multidisciplinary team based simulated learning scenarios which provide an invaluable opportunity for students to apply what they have learned during the course.

The Clarion National Case Study Competition, integrated into the course, provides students with invaluable opportunity to work together as a multidisciplinary team to identify problems, address challenges, and affect positive changes.

Together, each component of the course is intended to:
1. Help each student attain necessary knowledge and develop critical skills in becoming effective member of the healthcare team
2. Provide each student with the opportunity to attain skills that will allow them to become effective leaders in healthcare

Results
- Results of TTUHSC Participation in Clarion National Case Study Competition
  - Clarion National Case Study Competition 2010 - 1st Place
  - Clarion National Case Study Competition 2011 - 3rd Place
  - Clarion National Case Study Competition 2012 - 1st Place
- All members of the national competition winning team are actively considering and pursuing careers that include not only clinical roles but also managerial/leadership responsibilities
- Many of the 2012 QEP course participants became catalysts in forming the student organization Interprofessional Ambassadors (IPA)
- Many of the 2012 QEP course participants chose to be student mentors in the Health Raiders 2012 and student facilitators in QEP Fall Symposium 2012