PIVOT, the Center for Innovation in Nursing Education Newsletter

The CINE mission is to provide leadership in designing and implementing new and exciting nursing education initiatives to change the nature and quality of nursing education within the state of Texas and throughout the nation. The CINE provides leadership in uniting efforts across health care, education, and public sectors to address nursing workforce challenges by creating innovative new approaches to education.

What’s new in Nursing Education?

TIGER Project meets for Fall 2007 for Phase II Initiative
Facilitating collaboration among participating organizations to achieve the TIGER vision- Technology Informatics Guiding Education Reform with an established mission “to better prepare our nursing workforce (all practicing nurses and nursing students) to use technology and informatics to improve the delivery of patient care”. The project focuses on enabling organizations to encourage nurses to have the necessary skills for nurses’ portfolio in 2007 including computer literacy and information literacy. “The TIGER Initiative is a program; not an organization. TIGER has been a grass-roots effort to engage with all stakeholders that are committed to a common "vision" of ideal EHR-enabled nursing practice. Today, more than 70 diverse organizations have joined this effort”. 3-Year Action Steps toward a 10-Year Vision. The TIGER Initiative aims to enable practicing nurses and nursing students to fully embrace the digital era. The TIGER vision hopes to enable nurses to use information technology (IT) seamlessly for the purposes of providing safe, quality care. In order to achieve this vision, 70 stakeholders from all areas of practice and education, including professional organizations, academic institutions, government and policy makers, informatics, vendors, healthcare delivery organizations, health information management professionals, and librarians. For more information about the key steps to be taken in education, practice and business to enable nurses to integrate technology in a transparent manner view the following:
Additional reading can be found in Nursing Outlook’s December 2007 issue.

American Nurses Association resources for Nurse Educators
An excellent short video for nurse educators to use in the classroom or online which addresses the importance of joining your professional organization can be found at the following site:
http://www.nursingworld.org/EspeciallyForYou/Educators/ANAMovie.aspx
This video shares the role of the association in lobbying congress and moving important legislation into action. A very important example is portrayed with real nursing stories about the safe patient handling project findings and the role of ANA in facilitating this program. Additionally a PowerPoint presentation is available on this nurse educators site addressing the importance of belonging. The historical information and the role of ANA is well defined in this work. The powerpoint can be accessed on the nursing world website or
http://www.nursingworld.org/EspeciallyForYou/Educators/TheImportanceofBelonging.aspx
**NEW AHRQ WEBSITE**

*Healthcare 411* is a new podcast site sponsored by the Agency for Healthcare Quality. There are excellent evidence based radiocasts covering the subjects of cancer, cardiovascular disease, patient safety, health insurance, medication errors, antidepressants and medical errors. These informative presentations can be heard at:  [http://www.healthcare411.ahrq.gov/radiocastseg.aspx?id=707&type=seg](http://www.healthcare411.ahrq.gov/radiocastseg.aspx?id=707&type=seg)

With a length of 2 to 6 minutes these clips can provide a quick update on new E-prescribing systems or the latest findings on the MRSA outbreak. To subscribe and be notified by email of the most recent podcasts available go to:  [http://www.healthcare411.ahrq.gov/subscribe.aspx](http://www.healthcare411.ahrq.gov/subscribe.aspx)

The AHRQ site on Medical Errors and Patient Safety continues to provide excellent evidence based data and case studies for nurse educators. This site can be accessed at:  [http://www.ahrq.gov/qual/errorsix.htm](http://www.ahrq.gov/qual/errorsix.htm)  Once again subscribing will provide monthly newsletter updates to be delivered to your mail box. The *Morbidity and Mortality Rounds on the Web* is an excellent resource for case studies and can be accessed from this page. These case studies can be an important resource for developing root cause analysis scenarios for student groups.

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**What’s New From The CINE**

The CINE is featuring the work of Pat Francis-Johnson, RN, MSN, Coordinator of the Second Degree web based BSN program in this issue. Mrs. Francis-Johnson in partnership with the 2nd degree team has developed a very interesting clinical evaluation system by combining the tenets of the Excelsior University Model of Gated Evaluation with the concepts of scaffolding theory and discovery learning used in the 2nd degree program. Below is a summary of her recent presentation on Gated Evaluation of Clinical Skills:

**STRATEGIES FOR ASSESSMENT OF CLINICAL SKILLS IN SECOND DEGREE BSN STUDENTS**

Patricia Francis, RN, MSN
Assistant Professor
School of Nursing

**Introduction:** Texas Tech Health Sciences Center School of Nursing (TTUHSC SON) has implemented a second degree web based accelerated baccalaureate nursing degree (2° w*BSN*) program for students with previous college degrees, initially targeting recruits from both the Hill Country and West Texas communities. The program goal is a BSN nurse prepared to meet the challenges of a complex and changing healthcare system.

**Method:** This presentation discussed the methods used to evaluate the clinical skills of students enrolled in a second degree BSN program. Students begin the program as Certified Nurse Aides.

The first assessment is a validation of the students’ previous skills followed by “Boot Camp”, a week long clinical intensive in which fundamentals skills are taught in a simulation lab. Students are required to accurately demonstrate the skills learned using standardized protocols. At the end of Boot Camp, students demonstrate skills without the use of a skills check sheet. Faculty evaluate the students through observation, without coaching. Throughout the program, each clinical course is followed by a Clinical Competence course. In the Clinical Competence courses, students are required to validate skills learned in clinical courses in the practicum format aforementioned. These ‘gate’ assessments allow faculty and students to determine student deficits prior to Student’s moving on to the next level. Remediation is provided for students with identified deficits. At the end of the program, students are required to complete a practicum in which they demonstrate skills in a simulation lab. Faculty’s role during the evaluation is one of silent observation rather than teaching.

**Discussion and Conclusions:** The faculty of this program believe the standardized evaluation format used offers many advantages. These include a transparent evaluation process where student, faculty and clinical supervisor are all part of the evaluation process and all elements of the evaluation process are known to all involved parties. The ‘gated’ nature of the evaluation process allows for student deficits to be identified as the student moves through the program so that deficits can be addressed quickly. The use of standardized protocols allows for application of skills in diverse settings. (continued page 3)
Future Implications: Evaluation of clinical competence is a difficult and complex process that requires a good deal more research. This model requires continued testing and refinement. Specifically, the evaluation tools require refinement and student outcomes require further assessment. The program is currently working with a commercial vendor to further standardize and document evaluation of clinical competence. Ultimately, the comfort of the graduate nurse in the clinical setting is the best measure of the effectiveness of this evaluation process.

NEW MEMBERS JOIN THE CINE TEAM OF FACULTY

The CINE welcomes the following faculty members to the CINE team: Dr. Sharon Decker, Dr. Barbara Johnston, Dr. Lynda Billings, and Ms. Laura Opton. These new members join the current CINE team composed of the following faculty members: Alexia Green, Pat Allen, Cathie Collins, Pat Francis-Johnson, Ruth Ann Bridges, Sharon Cannon, Myrna Armstrong, Carol Boswell, Dorothy Jackson, Lori Wingate, Darlene Lacy, Karen Dadich, Melinda Mitchell, Carrie Edwards, Mary Anne Hanley and Brad Golden.

CINE ACTIVITIES

CINE fall activities have been devoted to grant writing. The CINE has participated in writing two THECB grants. The THECB Academic Partnership grant application is targeted for funding in January 2008. Under the direction of PI, Dr. Sharon Cannon, this grant focuses on a partnership within the West Texas Nursing Education Consortium for the development of a common application portal for all West Texas state community college ADN and university BSN programs as well as a password protected retention portal for students and faculty from all consortium programs to access for the purpose of increasing retention of West Texas students in nursing programs.

The CINE under the direction of Dr. Green, spearheaded the establishment of the West Texas Nursing Education Consortium. This consortium is comprised of schools of nursing in the West Texas region. All state supported community colleges and universities offering a nursing curriculum are members of the consortium. We anticipate many exciting activities in the future for the consortium.

The CINE continues involvement with the Texas Nursing Competency Coalition (TNCC). Currently, the TNCC together with the BON and TNA under the guidance of Dr. Sharon Decker and team members Ann Utterback and Melinda Mitchell are submitting a grant to the National Council of State Boards of Nursing to begin preliminary research in the area of practice competency evaluation.

What’s Next for the CINE

In order to better serve the entire SON the CINE will have a call for all faculty to apply for the Master Teacher Award. This is a new award sponsored by the CINE honoring one of the many master teachers among the faculty at the SON. The Master Teacher will have access to limited funds for travel to a conference of his/her choice and a forum date to present conference findings or interested in educational methodologies to interested faculty. The application for Master Teacher will be placed in your email box soon.