PIVOT, the Center for Innovation in Nursing Education Newsletter

What’s new in Nursing Education?

Department of Labor Initiative

The DOL, together with RWJF, HRSA, and the Center to Champion Nursing in America will co-sponsor a National Nursing Education Summit, June 26th and 27th in Washington, DC. The focus of the summit is to allow state teams to share best practices, innovations, consult with experts and further develop their own state plans to expand nursing education capacity. The first day will focus on strategic partnerships and resource alignment, policy development to support expanding capacity, recommendations for increasing faculty capacity and education redesign. Day 2 will focus on individual teams gathering to develop action plans for their state.

Texas was one of eleven states selected for this national nursing education meeting. The team will be led by our on Dean Alexia Green.

Second Life

Do you have a Second Life account? Second Life provides faculty the opportunity to buy real estate and create virtual clinical settings for student learning activities. A leading resource in the use of 2nd Life is John Miller, at Tacoma Community College, NESIM or Nursing Education in Second Life, has developed an emergency department. To create a free account go to www.secondlife.com.

CINE Partners’ Activities

News from out partnerships: WTNEC, ASB, SPNECC, SPC, and Alliance for Innovation in Nursing Education

- The West Texas Nurse Educators Consortium is currently implementing a THECB grant to build a common portal for admission to WTNEC schools and a common portal to share retention strategies across WTNEC schools. Both projects will enable WTNEC to add to the evidence of best practices in nursing education. Additionally, the consortium has received funding from the WorkForce Board of the South Plains to move a previously developed Competency Transcript to online use by consortium schools. This funding allows Midwestern State University and Vernon College to further previously funded
work on a competency transcript for remediation and refinement of a transcript for use by potentials employers to view student’s work on competencies obtained by graduation.

- American State Bank, in partnership with TTUHSC SON, is in the final round of consideration for a RWJF grant, Partnerships Investing in Nursing (PIN), which will allow collaboration in regional simulation activities and further strengthen community support for nursing education in the South Plains region. ASB is a member of the South Plains Nursing Education Community Coalition (SPNECC) and continues to support nursing at all levels.

- Congratulations to another SPNECC member and our partner school, South Plains College, who received a $1.2 million grant from Department of Labor to build a simulation center and build on pipeline activities for nursing education in the SPC surrounding service area. TTUHSC will join them in many of the grant activities.

- Drs Armstrong and Allen recently met with Eileen Klein, Dean of Austin Community College, concerning future activities of the Alliance for Innovation in Nursing Education. After discussing the needs of the community college and the resources of TTUHSC, a tentative plan for a new model of faculty preparation at the community college level is underway. Further details of the “Transition to Faculty” project will be shared as the details emerge.

What’s New From The CINE

Bridging the Gap Between Patient Safety and Nurse Competency: Pieces to Policy

On April 30th, May 1st and 2nd 2008 TTUHSC, RWJF, and The Workforce Board of South Plains sponsored the second Texas Nursing Competency Consortium conference on “Bridging the Gap Between Patient Safety and Nurse Competency: From Pieces to Policy”. This excellent event was hosted at the Ranching Heritage Museum and featured a pre-conference with excellent presentations by our own Dr. Rod Hicks on “Issues related to the Use of Medications and Students” and “The State of Nursing Science for Safe Medication Use”.

The pre-conference also featured Dr. Gwen Sherwood, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs at the University of North Carolina, School of Nursing. Dr. Sherwood is also co-investigator for two RWJF funded studies on quality and safety in nursing education (QSEN). The work of the QSEN project, phases one and two and the relationship of these findings to relevant nursing education methodologies was presented.

The session was followed by excellent presentations by Dr. Patricia Benner in reviewing the Carnegie Study and Integrative Teaching Practices: Foundations for Clinical Competency.

The agenda then moved to explore the exciting and very relevant work of Dr. Carol Kenner on Implementing the IOM Competencies in nursing education. Dr. Sherwood then followed with a presentation on the relationship of QSEN and the IOM competencies in nursing education. The first day was concluded with a synthesis session facilitated by Dr. Pat Yoder-Wise. Attendees were entertained with a wonderful outdoor reception and book signing event hosted Sigma Theta Tau and American State Bank.

Day 2 of this informative conference explored the relationship between the apprenticeships in nursing education reviewed by Dr. Patricia Benner with a review of current approaches to ensuring clinical competence by TNCC practice partners, Kim Judd, Joyce Batcheller and Dr. Patricia Cornett. From practice insights the conference moved to current findings and a recommendation by the State Policy Panel on a continued competency evaluation model for nurses in Texas. The conference was concluded with a synthesis session facilitated by Dr. Pat Yoder-Wise and Closing next steps presented by Drs. Yoder-Wise, Green and Burns.

The Conference was sponsored by Workforce Solutions of the South Plains.
CINE ACTIVITIES

The CINE received five grants this spring. Two grants were received from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB). The first grant awarded to the West Texas Nursing Education Consortium (WTNEC) explores building application and retention portals for use by all consortium schools of nursing. The PI of this grant is Dr. Sharon Cannon. TTUHSC received the only conference planning grant awarded by the THECB for a nursing partnership conference in April 2009. Dr. Maryanne Hanley is the PI for this grant and Dr. Lynda Billings is the project director. The conference will showcase partnerships in nursing across the state leading to solutions to the nursing shortage. Mark your calendars as this conference will occur in Lubbock on April 1st, 2nd, and 3rd 2009.

The CINE participated in the preparation of three small Work Force of South Plains grants which contributed to the funds for the TNCC conference, the Midwestern State and West Texas Nurse Educators Consortium work on competency transcripts, and funding for a NLN CNE review course to be offered to nurse educators during the Spring 2009 THECB conference to be held in Lubbock. The CINE thanks Dr. Lynda for her excellent grant writing skills which are directly related to grant writing success within the School of Nursing.

The CINE hosted a very exciting Brown Bag Series this Spring which addressed internal initiatives reflecting teaching innovations from faculty in the School of Nursing and one faculty from the School of Pharmacy. A list of the innovations and the presentations can be seen on the CINE webpage at http://nursing.ttuhs.edu/brownbag/. These sessions proved to be informative and the CINE hopes to sponsor these sessions again in the Fall 2008.

School of Nursing Faculty Spotlight…..Ms. Debbie Davenport, RN, MSN

Debbie Davenport currently teaches Spanish for Healthcare providers as an elective for nursing students. Her interest in Spanish began in junior high and high school. Later, her studies allowed Debbie to place out of all 4 years of undergraduate Spanish at Baylor and move to placement in graduate level Spanish courses. As a nurse practicing in Houston, Dallas, and California Debbie used Spanish frequently in her practice.

In a recent interview, Debbie shared her concern for the great need for bi-lingual nurses in practice today and suggests in the future Spanish should be mandated in curriculum. She enjoys teaching this elective. Debbie has used many creative teaching methodologies in this course. The course began as an independent study for just 3 students who did extremely well in developing Spanish language skills. The second class began last spring and initially was opened to 20 students, but the course expanded to 30 slots do to student demand.

Debbie offers a variety of teaching methodologies in this class. The students use a text and complete workbook assignments weekly. They practice reading aloud and they did scavenger hunt activities around the building. The class learned traditional Spanish songs. Debbie created an environment safe for learning and speaking Spanish in class each week. To further ensure this safe learning environment, Debbie developed course examinations which are very “elementary school”. The exams have matching, fill in the blank and crossword puzzles. The exams begin moving from English to Spanish work and then progress to Spanish to Spanish work. The course has a “practicum” experience in two parts. First, in pairs, the students gave directions to a “lost “ person who spoke only Spanish. Next, the student pairs did post-op teaching, admission teaching or gave discharge instructions to a patient who only spoke Spanish. This activity occurs in the simulation laboratory. Both activities were graded by an established Rubric. Debbie will soon be publishing this innovative practicum activity.

Debbie has many plans for further development of this course. She would like to develop and test a tool for assessing competency in the use of the Spanish language. Also, she hopes to develop a CE course for healthcare providers and create an online course for distance students. Finally, she feels this would be an excellent course to offer as an interdisciplinary elective at the HSC.

This week Debbie is off to Mexico for an immersion experience with faculty from all over Texas. Nurses, physicians and other healthcare providers are traveling with UT Arlington.