An academic-practice partnership for preparing the next generation of professional development specialists: a best practice model

Professional Development Specialists are often appointed based on their clinical expertise rather than their skills as educators. Moreover, mainstream Nurse Educator graduate programs primarily prepare nurses for the nurse educator role in the academic rather than the service setting. Therefore, the purpose of this presentation is to describe an academic-practice partnership designed to meet the need to prepare the next generation of Professional Development Specialists within a large, urban, multi-site health system. The graduate program faculty and the health system nursing leadership worked jointly to identify common goals. The goals were twofold: to academically prepare current health system nursing staff as Nurse Educators who would be able to 1) fill current and future Nurse Educator vacancies within the health system, and, 2) serve as clinical faculty for the school of nursing. The partnership is ongoing and has, thus far, demonstrated successful goal attainment. The curriculum and program outcomes were redesigned to prepare graduates for the nurse educator role across diverse settings with increased emphasis on the professional development and advanced direct-care provider role. Courses are delivered using a learning management system and assignments are based on actual clinical, educational, ethical, and legal situations encountered in clinical practice and in the academic setting. The curriculum is grounded in theories of teaching and learning and evidence-based best practice in educational design, test construction, and evaluation. Formative and summative outcomes are monitored and reported for continuous program improvement. Best practices and lessons learned will be explored.

Biography

Stephen R Marrone is a Nurse Leader experienced in the roles of Educator, Clinician, Administrator, Consultant, Researcher, and Scholar in healthcare and academic settings in the USA and the Middle East. He is board certified in Nursing Professional Development, as a Nurse Executive, Advanced, and in Transcultural Nursing, Advanced. He is a Six Sigma Green Belt, a TeamSTEPPS Master Trainer, a Fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine, and a Leadership Fellow in the Center for Leadership Excellence of the American Association of Critical Care Nurses, a Transcultural Nursing Scholar, and the current 2nd Vice President of the Transcultural Nursing Society.