



Advocating and Sustaining Lifelong Learning Through a Center of Excellence Approach

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Purpose

- Centers of Excellence (COE) – a group or team organized toward addressing a distinct sphere of focus (Haughn, 2015)
- Developed to address health issues and close research/practice gaps



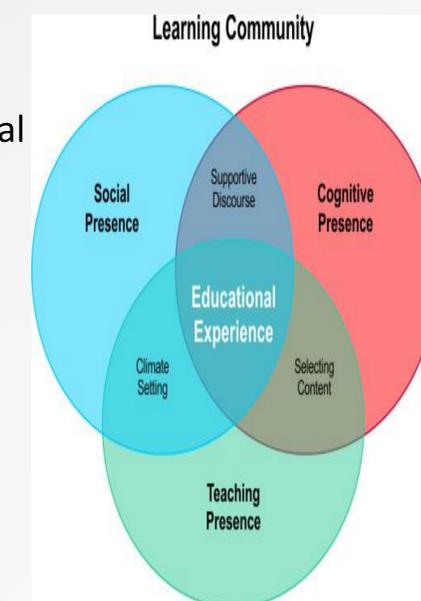
Key Concepts and Models

- Advantages – efficiency, consistency, practicality, and career advancement
- Cost containment
- Flexibility
- Culture of quality
- Define a common set of best practices and work standards
- Assess the maturity of any plans against the evidence
- Provide direct guidance and support



Discussion

- Bridge practice/research gaps
- Establish relationship to address nursing and community workforce needs
- Support connectiveness between different groups
- Activities can include:
 - Continuing education events
 - Evidence-based practice opportunities
 - Mentorship measures
 - Consultation endeavors
 - Academy of Inquisitive Thinking
- Networking with local, state, and national communities essential
- Mentoring and partnerships key to sustainability
- Partnerships
 - Create a shared vision and mission
 - Each partner's needs/expectations must be addressed
 - Handle disagreements/frustrations early
 - Support partnership's limitations
 - Define job roles including accountability
 - Consider what is beyond what's on the table
 - Be sure and clear on the why of the partnership
 - Do not rush the process
 - Expect to be uncomfortable at times
 - Seek the WIN/WIN as much as possible



Conclusion

- Consider innovative ideas to address the developing community challenges
- Look for new partnerships that could be developed
- Open your thoughts to the possibilities of change and advancement