

Nursing Education Research Conference 2018 (NERC18)

An Integrative Approach to the Implementation of a Veteran to BSN Pathway

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The Veteran to BSN Pathway targets barriers that prevent veterans from transitioning into the nursing profession and accessing education. This includes: developing programs that target the unique needs of veterans; exploring innovative educational models to award academic credit for prior military health career experiences and training; improving employment opportunities for veterans through high demand careers; and addressing the growing national demand for BSN prepared registered nurses.

It has been estimated that over the next five years, approximately 1.5 million service members will separate from the military and will be returning to college and looking for employment (Snyder, Wick, Skillman, & Frogner, 2016). Moreover, it has been suggested that one of the top degrees sought out by veterans is a nursing degree. This is due to interest in the healthcare field and the overall demand for nurses within the job market (<http://www.bestcollegesonline.org/top-degrees-for-veterans/>). After notification of award, the necessary approvals needed to be obtained, as well as the complete development of the VBSN infrastructure that included: approval by the State Board of Nursing, the admission process, the awarding of credits, the development of curriculum to support the VBSN pathway, and the development of collaborations and partnerships with internal and external constituents to ensure sustainability.

The VBSN pathway developed processes that allows qualified veterans the opportunity to test out of designated courses based on demonstration of course competencies. These courses include: fundamentals of nursing didactic, pharmacology, and health assessment. An additional component of this grant was to provide faculty and staff with workshops that addressed the physical, emotional, and environmental issues affecting veterans in order to minimize barriers to their transition into the nursing profession. The goal of these workshops were to facilitate the development of a culture of respect for veterans returning to the University setting. Overall, the VBSN pathway has been successful in reducing barriers and providing needed supports to ensure the success of the veterans when returning for their Bachelor of Science nursing degree.

Title:

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Keywords:

Community collaborations , Underserved populations and Veterans

References:

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Abstract Summary:

The presentation will explain the processes involved in developing, implementing, and sustaining a Veteran's to Bachelors of Science in nursing pathway that was funded with a three-year \$1 million HRSA grant.

Content Outline:

The presentation will explain the processes and procedures involved in developing, implementing, and sustaining a Veteran's to Bachelors of Science in nursing pathway. In the summer of 2015, the nursing department at a University in the United States was awarded a three-year \$1 million HRSA grant that allowed the development and implementation of a Veteran to Bachelor of Science in Nursing Pathway (VBSN). This presentation will included discussions of the following points: understanding the military culture; targeting the educational needs of underserved populations; increasing diversity within student populations; awarding of credits for military experiences; competency based assessments; processes to ensure sustainability of the pathway through community collaborations; and *lessons learned with the implementation of the VBSN pathway*.

Given the number of veterans returning to Universities and seeking nursing degrees, it becomes imperative to share the processes and lessons learned in creating a supportive environment for these service members.

First Primary Presenting Author

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Professional Experience: I have been a nurse and nurse educator for over 25 years. This has included interacting and providing care for various vulnerable populations. For the last ten years I have worked directly with homeless populations located in the southwest portion of the United States in order to improve their health care outcomes. Currently I am employed as a Professor of Nursing and serve as the Veteran to BSN Director and Principal Investigator. Major responsibilities have included teaching in the following content and clinical areas: mental health nursing, nursing theory, nursing research, leadership, and community health. This program is an eighteen month accelerated BSN program that features the use of a block curriculum. Additional experience includes teaching on-line for the accelerated on-line component of the program.

Author Summary: Dr. Jené Hurlbut has been a nurse and nurse educator for over 25 years and has interacted and provided care for various vulnerable populations during this time. This includes working with various homeless populations in order to improve their health care outcomes. She has published research findings related to the care of homeless women and this includes the impact of spirituality on the health of this marginalized population.

Second Secondary Presenting Author

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Professional Experience: 2015 – Present) VBSN Grant Manager & Director of Student Affairs, Roseman University of Health Sciences - College of Nursing , Henderson, NV Responsible for development, implementation and oversight of the Veteran to BSN Pathway in the areas of enrollment management, student affairs, veteran services, career opportunities, military credit articulation and grant management 2013-2015) Dual Credit Programs Coordinator, University of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI Responsible for increasing, improving and managing the student enrollment processes in a Dual-Credit/Dual-Enrollment program; Responsible for statewide expansion of dual credit programs (2005 – 2013) Recruitment, Admissions & Enrollment Coordinator , Roseman University of Health Sciences - College of Nursing , Henderson, NV and South Jordan, UT Responsible for the policy and process development and implementation of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing and the Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing in the areas of admissions operations, enrollment management, credit articulation and student affairs

Author Summary: Imelda Revuelto has been in higher education for 11 years with experiences in program and policy development and implementation, specifically in admissions, enrollment management, articulation and transfer, retention and veteran support services. She is currently the Veteran to BSN Grant Manager and Director of Student Affairs where she is responsible for developing and implementing multi-faceted veteran student support services from the point of inquiry through to career.