

Bringing the Theory of Leadership and Research into Practice

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BACKGROUND

Leadership is a complex, multifaceted phenomenon that has been defined in numerous ways (Grossman and Valiga, 2013). Students graduating with a BSN are required to step into leadership roles in health care systems that are complex, fast paced and stretched for resources. In order to prepare students to step onto these leadership roles they need to develop competencies in nursing leadership and nursing research.

Nursing Research Course – 14weeks

This course expands students' understanding of nursing scholarship and their abilities to comprehend, critique, and utilize nursing research. Students critically reflect on various scholarly works and research methodologies. Students experience ways to critically examine their practice in relation to nursing research and to pose research questions for evidence-informed practice.

Nursing Leadership Course – 14 weeks

Nurses provide leadership, influence, create and manage change for the promotion of health for individuals, families, groups and communities within the context of society and the world. The role of the nurse within the current and evolving Canadian health care system is explored including considerations of the impact of global trends and issues. This course focuses on student growth as a professional nurse leader. Students have opportunities to explore their responsibilities as leaders, followers and change agents both as individuals, and as part of an interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral teams.. Change processes and models are explored as well as strategies for implementing, managing and surviving change.

Nursing Practice Course – 72 hours over 14weeks

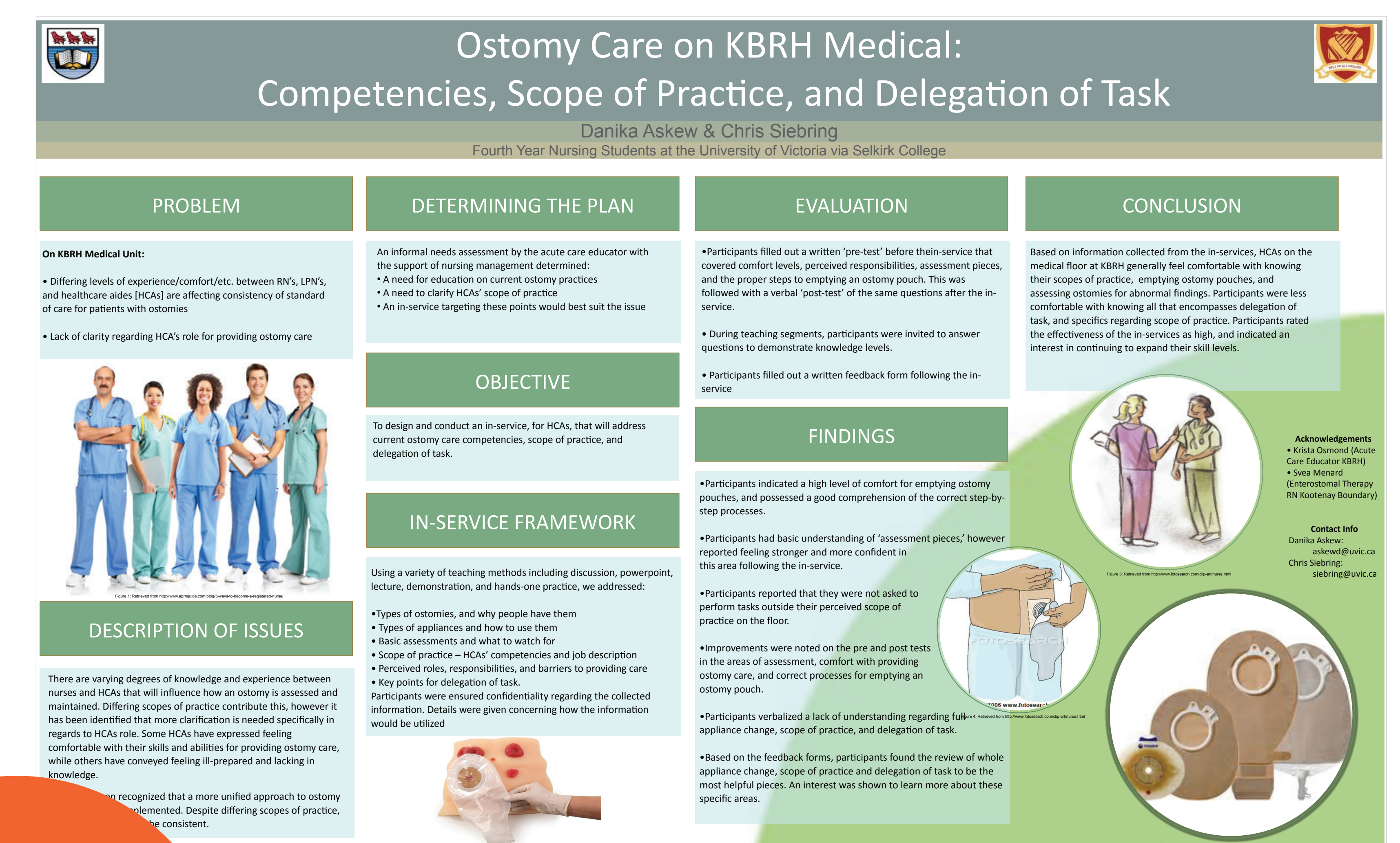
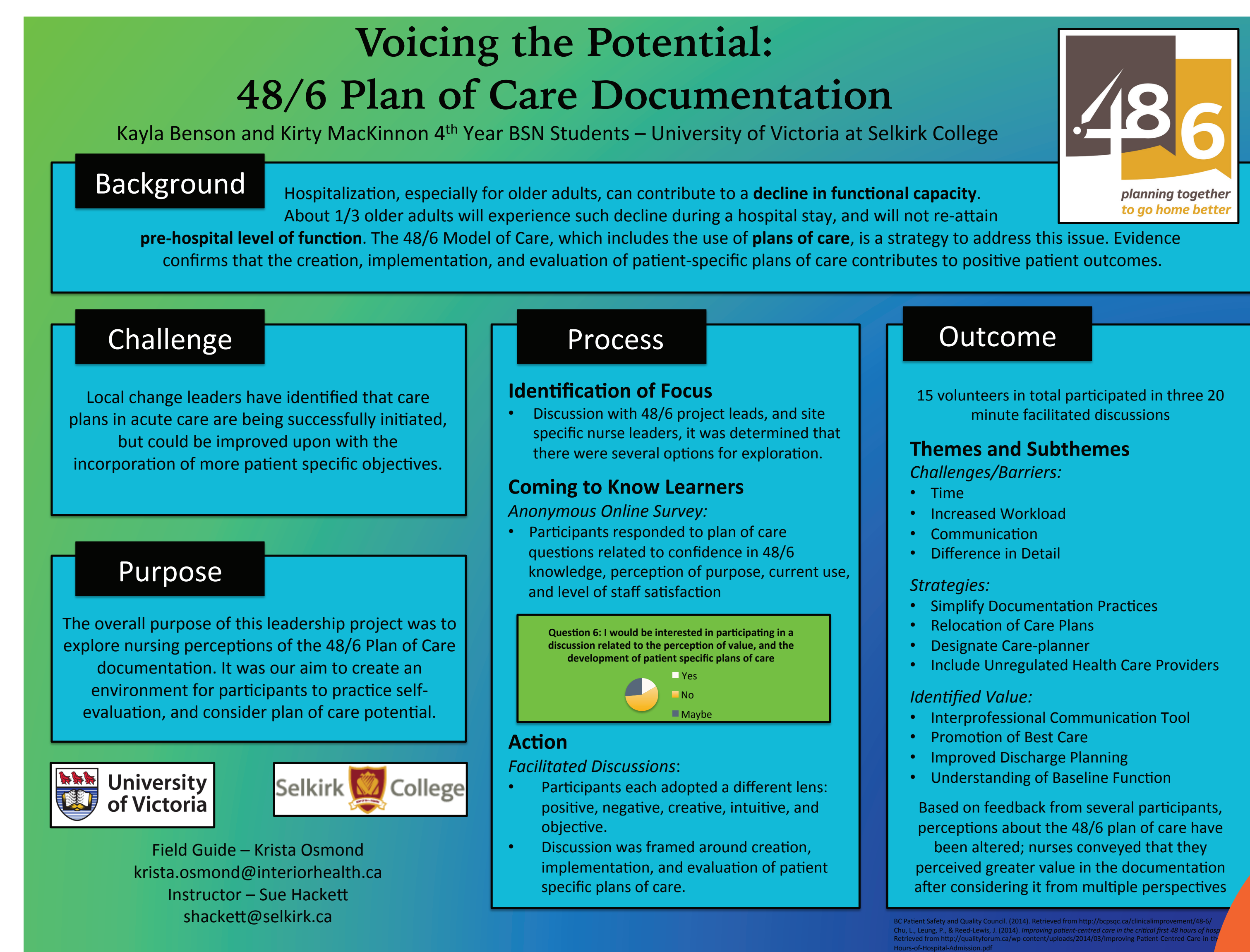
Practice experiences provides nursing students with opportunities to explore concepts studied in their theory courses, including: influence, power, change, health policy strategies, funding and resources allocation, and citizen participation, scholarship and research. Students have an opportunity to engage in change on a specific health or nursing practice issue in a wide variety of nursing and interprofessional practice settings. Participants learn about professional nursing practice, critical thinking, and critical reflection. Praxis involves the examination of the dynamic interplay between theory and practice.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES



DISCUSSION

The culmination of students work is shared through a Nursing Student Leadership conference. Students prepare a professional poster illustrating their work and share their work in a 30 minute concurrent session. The conference is attended by nursing faculty, all nursing students in the BSN program. Field guides, mentors and practice partners are also invited to attend. Student presenters obtain peer feedback and faculty feedback.



NURSING STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

