2016 Research & Innovation Day Program

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Authors
2016 RESEARCH & INNOVATION DAY

[Logo: RESEARCH & INNOVATION DAY]
AGENDA

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Faculty Research Presentations in T1004
(Posters on display in B and T Hallway)

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon
Student Projects on Display
in James A. Colvin Atrium

12:00 Noon - 1:00 p.m.
Panel Discussion
Scotiabank Lecture Theatre - T1003

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Presentation of Awards and Wrap up
James A. Colvin Atrium
STUDENT RESEARCH PROJECTS
1. Robin Painter, Carly Vignault, Teresa Fisher, Taylor Graham - The Sleeping Inn and The Dining Room

Evaluating a business plan to determine the viability of an inn and restaurant that will provide comfortable and affordable accommodations for guests when they stay in the city of London.

Collaborator - Mike Mason

2. Jenny Rensby, Ashley Sherry, Kelly Maloney, Allison Speck, Victoria Beardshaw, Megan Loucks, Michelle Giffin - A Rec’ers Gala

Filling a need for Recreation and Leisure Services Alumni, to reconnect graduates with their past classmates. This capstone project focused on taking all of our learning to date and implementing it into practical experience focusing on re-connection, building relationships and networking for present students at a networking event.

Collaborators - Linda Whitehead, Nancy Delorey, Tiffany Kicks

3. Amal Muselmani, Cassandra Melon, Erin Tulett, Candice Thomas, Megan Taylor, Marissa Macdonald - The Effects of Isolated Variables on Learning

Examining memory retention and its correlation with intentional and incidental learners to gain insight into how learning and memory works.

Collaborator - Dr. Scott G. Veenvliet

4. Kayla Bailey, Kate Sadler, Jessica Wilkins, Allyson Richter, Taylor Myers, Jessica Bouchard, Kristina Pepe, Haylee Siddall - The Price of Convenience

Discovering and addressing the price of convenience on sustainability to educate and inform practices for Fanshawe College's recycling program.

Collaborators - Coleman Jordan, Mary-Lee Townsend

5. Alyssa Churchill - Parents' Perceptions on Technology in the Early Years and Gender Differences.

Examining whether parents’ perceptions of digital technology are affected by the gender of their child, specifically, whether parents will have a more positive outlook on technology if their child is a male as opposed to a female.

Collaborators - Sandra Lackenbauer, Carmen Hall
6. Maureen Cullen - Reflective Practice in Early Childhood Education
Understanding how HDLH and a “community of practice” can impact a reflective practice for R.ECEs and informing the local Professional Learning Community on future professional development opportunities for R.ECEs.

Collaborator - Dr. Lisa McCorquodale

7. Anthony Currie, Jaimie Cameron, Kevin Co, Mary Alias, Marguerite Mayr, Christian McLean - The Tendency to Certainty in Religious Belief
Testing the hypothesis that belief is usually stronger than the evidence warrants, especially in religious and political beliefs, is information with sweeping application to human affairs; in everything from marketing, to political affairs, to social affairs, and much more, knowledge of the nature of human belief can provide us with wisdom about how to run a business or even society as a whole.

Collaborator - Dr. Scott G. Veenvliet

8. Kelsey Fischer - Parents' Awareness, Attitudes and Actions Regarding Risk-Taking Behaviours of School-Aged Children
Determining if there is an association between parents’ awareness, attitudes and actions regarding risk-taking behaviours of children in London, Ontario.

Collaborators – Sandra Lackenbauer, Carmen Hall

9. Paryank Dave – LUMINANCE
Providing more efficient and less expensive luminaries that can be used to replace existing lighting systems in commercial and residential settings.

10. Todd Young, Rick Martin - Hudson Boat Works’ (HBW) Test Stand
Creating an automated test stand to more accurately measure deflection and torsional forces on Olympic class racing shells, produced by Hudson Boat Works, with high repeatability.

Collaborators - Martin Volkening, Louis Jraige, Charles Millar, Hudson Boat Works
11. Bronwyn Johns - A History Still Ignored: Taught the Negative, Where is the Positive?
To gain more insight into Registered Early Childhood Educators’ pre-service training regarding Indigenous content through interviews to foster professional discussion about whether Ontario Early Childhood Education diploma programs should modify their curriculum regarding Indigenous people.

Collaborator - Dr. Lisa McCorquodale

Using randomized control trials (RCTs) to evaluate post-lung transplant exercise rehabilitation programs to make a case for mandatory programs in Canadian transplant hospitals.

Collaborator – Julie Brown

13. Krittika Sarkar, Feyisayo Olakanye, Onyekachukwu Okonji - THAMES VALLEY FAMILY HEALTH TEAM
Gaining evidence to urge the Government to establish an Information Technology Research Centre, financial incentives on EHR interoperability and to improve quality and access to primary care in Ontario.

Collaborators - Silvie MacLean, Michael Oates, Director of Operations and Quality, Thames Valley Family Health Team, London-Middlesex Health Unit

Providing inclusive and equitable health and social services to those who experience barriers to care, and to foster the active participation of individuals and the communities.

Collaborators - Silvie MacLean, Megan Cornwell

15. Alexander Ware, Victoria Rodrigues, Meghan Bondy, Alana Vandelaar, Richard Cliffen, Adam Desjardins - Value and Need as Organizing Factors in Perception
Encouraging and supporting further student-based research on the correlation between value and need on perception, by providing baseline data and cultivating interest in the field of study.

Collaborator - Dr. Scott G. Veenvliet
16. Brittany Usher, Anthony Valle, Jessica Cutting, Alexander Robinson-Kenner - Creativity Correlation Test

Determining if there is a correlation between creativity and aspects of the personality including divergent thinking and openness to experience, by administering questionnaires to students to obtain scores for each factor.

Collaborator - Dr. Scott G. Veenvliet

17. METH-7011 Research Methods 1- Qualitative Research 2nd Year Students Honours Bachelor of Interior Design Inquiry into a Fanshawe College Library Design – Project 17

Investigation into the design of the Fanshawe College library with an aim to maximize the positive experience of students, staff and faculty.

Collaborator – Dr. Angela Bourne

18. METH-7011 Research Methods 1- Qualitative Research 2nd Year Students Honours Bachelor of Interior Design Inquiry into a Fanshawe College Library Design – Project 18

Investigation into the design of the Fanshawe College library with an aim to maximize the positive experience of students, staff and faculty.

Collaborator – Dr. Angela Bourne

19. METH-7011 Research Methods 1- Qualitative Research 2nd Year Students Honours Bachelor of Interior Design Inquiry into a Fanshawe College Library Design – Project 19

Investigation into the design of the Fanshawe College library with an aim to maximize the positive experience of students, staff and faculty.

Collaborator – Dr. Angela Bourne

20. Vimoshana Vijayakumar, Anthony Yip Chuck, Ashley Bilyea, Karlie Cooper - E-Cigarette Aerosol Composition and Deposition

Raising awareness and generating an active interest by educating students/youth so they may better understand the composition, function, associated health implications, and environmental impact of E-Cigarette use.

Collaborator – Julie Brown
21. Sarah Broadfoot - The Impacts of Neonicotinoids on Bee Colony Collapse and the Human Food Supply
Educating people and bringing awareness to the issue that human action is causing the loss of pollinating insects, specifically bees.
Collaborator - Dr. Cheryl Ketola

22. Russell Vey, Andrew Ross - Best Way to Get a Boost from Caffeine Consumption
Providing public awareness of caffeine consumption, including sources, memory enhancement, disease and to overcome potential negative controversial biases of the substance.
Collaborator - Dr. Jing Zhang

Identifying mineral components of molasses as the agents of improved microbial growth for use in the bioremediation industry.
Collaborator – Dr. Michael Jennings

24. Elliott Law, Julia Bowering - The Reduction of Dioxin Pollution by the Pulp and Paper Industry Using Xylanase Enzymes
Bringing awareness to the toxic effect of dioxins on human health and to introduce a beneficial method of reducing chlorinated compounds in the pulp and paper bleaching process in Canada.
Collaborator - Dr. Jing Zhang

25. Deion Farrington, Ryan Figueiredo - Connecting gamers based on similar playing styles, skill level, location, and a host of other factors in order to improve multiplayer gaming experiences
Improving the gamer’s overall experience when gaming online, by allowing them to control how they’d like to game and who they’d like to game with.
Collaborator – LEAP Junction
26. Romik Vadhvana, Amol Pai - Stitch in line saves time
Finding solutions to reduce the line at the on-campus restaurants so that: students are able to focus on class work, professors can spend their valuable time on important tasks and we can provide an opportunity for students to earn money in this competitive market.
Collaborator – Annette Markvoort

27. Aisling Laverty, Ryan Chin - Uxbridge Equestrian Village
Developing an innovative, sustainable design that suits and compliments the surrounding area and provides future, long-term use for a previous aggregate extraction operation.
Collaborators - Eli Paddle, Ontario Stone, Sand & Gravel Association (OSSGA)

Evaluating the effect of an epidermal growth factor on qualitative and quantitative analysis of breast cancer cells. This research could be used for future drug development to improve breast cancer treatment.
Collaborators – Dr. Jing Zhang, Dr. Cheryl Ketola, Dr. Lauren Landschoot

29. Jonathan Ferreira, Joshua Zeledon, Kevin Greenspan – Praktik
Creation of an educational module prototype that will allow for efficacy testing and further refinement, and that will serve as an initial interactive module in a planned series of courseware applications.
Collaborators - Robert Haaf, John Bennett, Natalia Aguillon

30. Nicholas Ireland - Drinky.ca
Creation of an enhanced Web site, with extensive improvements in design and UX/UI, that will in future offer the client increased monetization opportunities.
Collaborators - Robert Haaf, John Bennett, Natalia Aguillon

31. Caitlin Lam, Joanna Chan - Alchemy Junk
Creation of an enhanced Web site, with extensive improvements in design and UX/UI, that will in future offer the client increased monetization opportunities.
Collaborators - Robert Haaf, John Bennett, Natalia Aguillon
32. Matthew Walcher, Jessica Pesant-Simpson – Truckladders
Creation of an enhanced Web site, with extensive improvements in design and UX/UI, as well as significant new functionality. This will in future offer the client increased monetization opportunities.
Collaborators - Robert Haaf, John Bennett, Natalia Aguillon

33. Chris Robins, Serena Teng, Asha Ramji - Sustainability Toolkit
Creation of a Web-based suite of tools for companies to establish and track sustainability initiatives, that in the future will offer increased monetization opportunities for the client.
Collaborators - Robert Haaf, John Bennett, Natalia Aguillon

34. Melissa Lambert, Alex Stegmann - My Wedding Ontario
Creation of an enhanced Wedding portal with increased monetization opportunities for the client.
Collaborators - Robert Haaf, John Bennett, Natalia Aguillon

35. Jamie Louwagie - Oral Probiotics Combat Cariogenic Bacteria and Biofilm Commonly Found in Thermoplastic Orthodontic Appliances
Testing the effectiveness of three probiotic bacteria at inhibiting the growth and biofilm formation of cariogenic bacteria and yeast isolated from clear thermoplastic orthodontic appliances.
Collaborators - Kris James, Dr. Peter Cadieux

Determining the effectiveness of a combination of probiotic bacteria as a prevention and management option for oral candidiasis.
Collaborators - Kris James, Dr. Peter Cadieux, Dr. Ryan Chanyi, Dr. Jeremy Burton and Kyle MacDonald

37. William Johnston, Jacqueline Payne, Phil Waldie, Brendan Dunn - Paramedicine Use of Realistic Simulation in Education (PURSE)
Understanding skill degradation in CPR psychomotor performance will provide insight into how these instructional methods fail. Understanding this, hopefully CPR education can be reformed to better serve the public when it matters most.
38. William Johnston - Paramedicine Use of Realistic Simulation in Education (PURSE)

Understanding how Paramedics are being educated across Canada will help us identify gaps in the educational process and recommend changes to better benefit both the students and the patients that they will treat.

Collaborator - Alan Batt

39. Paige Mason, Mike VanDenBrink, Kelly Donovan, Craig Docking, Jordan McDonald - Closing the Gap in the Circle of Care – Patient Outcome Feedback for Paramedics

Determining whether or not learning the diagnosis/outcome of patients in the Emergency Department increases paramedics confidence in their clinical diagnostic skills and whether or not it promotes evidence based research.

40. Paige Mason - #FOAMems – The Impact to Date

Evaluating the effectiveness and impact of the FOAM movement on emergency medical services through the use of the #FOAMems hashtag. By gaining a better insight into the impact to date of #FOAMems we can discover more effective strategies to utilize social media as a platform for knowledge sharing.

Collaborators - Alan Batt, Dugg Steary

41. Jesse Milley - Isolation and Characterization of Beneficial Oral Probiotic Bacteria from Healthy Volunteers

Determining effectiveness of isolated probiotic bacterial strains against known oral pathogens, with an end goal of including these strains in an oral probiotic lozenge designed for the prevention and management of cavities and inflammation.

Collaborators - Dr. Peter Cadieux, Kris James, Dr. Jeremy Burton

42. Cameron Kok, Nick Hollinger, Nolan Leclerc, Ken McDonald - “We will, we will, rock you.” Or will we? Staying relevant in the festival market

Providing insightful data to our client, Jones Entertainment Group, to help them remain successful in the musical festival industry by staying relevant. We expect to achieve this by completing an online survey and analyzing it using SPSS.

Collaborators - Kristen Cadotte, Myriah Kay, Jones Entertainment Group
STAFF/FACULTY RESEARCH PROJECTS
Title: A critical analysis of social exclusion in the lives of mothers experiencing homelessness

Researchers: Sarah Benbow, RN, Professor, School of Nursing, Cheryl Forchuk, Carolyne Gorlick, Helene Berman, Catherine Ward-Griffin

Purpose: The purpose of this two-phase study was to critically examine the socio-political context, health needs, exclusionary and inclusionary forces, and strategies of resistance demonstrated by mothers experiencing homelessness.

Methodology: This study informed by the critical theoretical perspective of intersectionality. Critical narrative and critical discourse analysis were employed. A purposive sample of women experiencing homelessness, and service providers participated in the study.

In phase two, a critical discourse analysis of Ontario’s Poverty Reduction Strategy was conducted.

Findings: Based on study purpose and philosophical underpinnings, four overarching themes were identified: (a) exclusion from safety; (b) stigma: public surveillance and discrimination; (c) contradictory sources and systems of support; and (d) internal impacts of exclusion.

Within phase two of the study, findings revealed that the needs of homeless mothers were not adequately represented or addressed in the policy, nor were their experiences of social exclusion.

Conclusions: The findings united individual realities with the macro structure of policy shaping the experiences of health, social exclusion, and homelessness for mothers.

Implications for nursing practice, education, research, and policy with regards to the socio-political context of health, social exclusion, and resistance of mothers experiencing homelessness are identified.
Title: Praktik

Researchers: Natalia Aguillon, Project Manager, School of Contemporary Media, Helen Harrison, First Year Coordinator, School of Nursing, John Bennett, Professor, School of Contemporary Media, Robert Haaf, Project Integration Coordinator, School of Contemporary Media.

In collaboration with the School of Nursing/Health Sciences, a dedicated student/faculty team will design and develop an interactive module for students in various Nursing and Health Science programs that have coursework in measurement of vital signs. The module will focus on blood pressure (BP) testing processes, and offer students rich-media learning assets, interactive simulations of use of BP equipment, integrated self-evaluation modules for interpretation. The non-linear and media-rich nature of the module will allow students extended interactive practice to prepare for simulation labs, practical tests and work with live patients. The fact that development will be with tools that export directly to mobile devices and the Web, will allow students to access the module in class, at home or in any computer lab, and on a range of different devices.

This module is envisioned as the first of many training modules that can be developed in the Health Sciences area through this program partnership. The modules can ultimately become a series of products for sale to other colleges, textbook companies, etc.

Title: Practice and Ethical Considerations of Institutional and Community Based Research Partnerships: Lessons Learned

Researchers: Jodi Hall, PhD, Professor, School of Nursing, Karen Jenkins, RN, MSc, Professor, School of Nursing, Holly Weaver, Community Based Researcher, SafeSpace, Billy Jones, Community Based Researcher, SafeSpace, Julie Baumann, Community Based Researcher, SafeSpace, Debbie Rudman, PhD, OT Reg. Ont, Associate Professor, Western University, Lorie Donelle, RN, PhD, Associate Professor, Western University

Peer researchers, community based researchers, persons with lived experience – terms often used interchangeably to refer to someone who is an ‘insider’ to the research population. Peer researchers are commonly used to negotiate communication and relationships between research populations and institutional based researchers. In Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR) – a methodology underpinned by a commitment to social justice, social inclusion and equity, peer researchers are integral to the rigour and success of the research. However, insights from our ongoing CBPR needs assessment with street based sex workers raises several methodological and ethical considerations about the use of peer researchers that need to be addressed. Concerns such as: (1) The possible (un)anticipated hardships for peers who become associated with researchers/“outsiders”, (2) How processes traditionally undertaken for collaborative data analysis depend on access to reliable information and communication technologies and high levels of various literacies, (3) Challenges associated with negotiating stories shared in the research context with peer researchers, compared with their insider “street knowing” of participants’ stories, and (4) The pragmatic issues that arise to accommodate all members of the team – from proposal development to dissemination. This paper will present our lessons learned and practical considerations for future studies with peer researchers.
**Title: “We need a place that we can go lay our head”: A Community Based Participatory Needs Assessment with Street Based Sex Workers**

**Researchers:** Jodi Hall, PhD, Professor, School of Nursing, Karen Jenkins, RN, MSc, Professor, School of Nursing, Holly Weaver, Community Based Researcher, SafeSpace, Billy Jones, Community Based Researcher, SafeSpace, Julie Baumann, Community Based Researcher, SafeSpace, Debbie Rudman, PhD, OT Reg. Ont, Associate Professor, Western University, Lorie Donelle, RN, PhD, Associate Professor, Western University

This paper is based on findings from a multi-dimensional needs assessment conducted utilizing a community based participatory research (CBPR) methodology. The research team included institutional based researchers, community based researchers and peer researchers with lived experience, and used participant observation, focus groups, a demographic questionnaire, and individual semi-structured interviews as methods of data collection. A collaborative approach to analysis was undertaken between institutional and community based researchers. Findings reveal a juxtaposition of “needs” identified between workers and professionals in the community providing services to workers. Needs identified by sex workers focused on their immediate and relatively mundane needs (i.e. need for friends), which juxtaposed the politically/policy driven needs identified by community agencies (i.e. frameworks to guide agency collaboration). Exploring the spaces between how ‘needs’ are constructed differently between service providers and services utilizers provides us with an opportunity to reflect on whose ‘needs’ we are really meeting, and has implications for the provision of appropriate and responsive services to a highly marginalized group.

**Title: Rail Transportation Safety and Sustainability**

**Researchers:** Seyed Goosheh, Professor, Lawrence Kinlin School of Business, Mona Khadelwal, Graduate, Fanshawe College, Annette Woloszyn, Graduate, Fanshawe College, Peter Sturm, CHSC, CRSP, Vice President, Minerva Safety Management

Reviewing the recent railway accidents involving dangerous goods, this study first re-examined some of the pre- and post-operational factors contributing to Lac-Megantic derailment of 2013, the accrued and projected damage costs of this disaster and the immediate business implications for the responsible shortline railroad company. Next, the ensuing recent regulatory changes that have been proposed by the Canadian and American governing bodies are examined in light of the operational environment in which the private and public stakeholders are to collaborate under new regulations in order to facilitate safe and sustainable transportation of dangerous goods in Canada. Finally, the findings of a previous business analysis that examined the accrued and projected costs of Lac-Megantic derailment are used to assess the business feasibility of some of the proposed changes. Based on the previously identified contributing factors and the costs of the seven mitigating measures that could have controlled or prevented them, the responsibilities of private and public sectors are examined and further changes are suggested to align economic feasibility with operational and environmental sustainability.
Title: “Where is the Nursing?”: Baccalaureate Nursing Students’ Perceptions of Non-Traditional Child Health Clinical Placements

Researchers: Karen O’Brien RN, MScN, Professor, School of Nursing, Katie Studnicka RN, MN, Professor, School of Nursing

Nursing students tend to look forward to their child health clinical placement in a hospital setting. However, there has been a shift away from hospital experiences to non-traditional community settings. When the students are notified that the clinical settings are in the community, they are often disappointed. However, upon completion of the placement, students’ preconceptions about the community setting have often been positively changed. This qualitative study utilizing focus groups explored the pre and post perceptions of nursing students in non-traditional child health clinical placements. The overarching theme identified was “where is the nursing”, which was underpinned by subthemes of the value of the placement and role (expectations and self-identification as a nurse). Participants were able to identify key aspects of nursing (e.g. communication, building relationships) but many did not view these skills as nursing. In addition, some participants had difficulty identifying their roles as nurses.

Title: Practical Nursing Clinical Placements: “thinking outside the box”

Researchers: Lorie Ranieri, Professor, School of Nursing, Karen Katsademas, Professor, School of Nursing

An innovative education delivery method was offered to practical nursing students in their first year based on two challenges faced by educators. Firstly, providing enough clinical placements for students in hospital based settings has become more difficult in recent years. Secondly, expertise in collaborative teamwork and interprofessional education is necessary for today’s health care professional. The literature indicates that there are positive health outcomes for clients when health care professionals work as a collaborative team (Sommerfeldt, Barton, Stayko, Patterson and Pimlott, 2011). One of the competencies required for effective interprofessional collaboration is role clarification (A National Interprofessional Competency Framework, 2010). It is important that students understand their own roles and those in other professions. In order to begin to address these challenges we have provided placement settings for students outside of the traditionally assigned inpatient units. In our setting, nursing students were given the opportunity to either shadow a midwife or a paediatrician during their child health clinical rotation. The key learning objectives for this poster presentation are to share our experience with providing the IPE learning opportunities, describe the process in setting up the experience, outline the students’ reflection on the placement and identify other benefits and barriers that occurred.
Title: Civic Engagement in the Curriculum

Researchers: Matt Farrell, Professor, School of Language and Liberal Studies

The decline of civic engagement is well documented in North America. Community colleges have an important role to play in promoting civic engagement. This three-pronged initiative seeks to understand how faculty are promoting civic engagement in the classroom; to assess student perceptions of these efforts; and to determine what supports faculty members would require in order to better incorporate civic engagement assignments into the curriculum.

Title: Comparing Hybrid Course Design

Researchers: Matt Farrell, Professor, School of Language and Liberal Studies

Increasingly, programs at Fanshawe are incorporating blended learning into the curriculum, yet there are many possible configurations for blended (or hybrid) courses. This project compared two distinct hybrid courses by tracking metrics of student engagement. Important lessons were learned that can inform the instructional design process for hybrid course development.

Title: Why WRIT Matters

Researchers: Sam Roodi, Professor, School of Language and Liberal Studies, Kim Cechetto, Professor, School of Language

This study was an attempt to address the question of how important written communication skills are according to employers and recruiters in London, Ontario. A number of top employers in the city were interviewed. All the participants stated that written communication skills are of fundamental importance in the workplace, and that such skills are sought by employers in the hiring process.

Title: The Effects of Regular Reflective Writing on Early Childhood Educators Effectiveness in the Workplace

Researchers: Sheryl Third, Professor and Coordinator, School of Nursing

As the profession of early childhood education itself is experiencing transformation, educators too are looking to redefine or transform their practice. This research paper examines reflective practice through the lens of Early Childhood Educators while investigating the theory of reflection and reflective writing from a psychological, social, spiritual and educational context. The research suggests there is evidence that writing can influence the ability of educators to elevate their reflective practice skills in their daily work with children, families and colleagues. Reflective writing requires Early Childhood Educators to examine and hold their thinking in place in order to dialogue and reflect on their practice. As Early Childhood Educators begin their journey through the reflective process, writing can act as a catalyst to embrace new skills and pedagogical practices.
Title: ZonedIn

Researchers: Mike Sloan, Professor, Lawrence Kinlin School of Business, Brad Smith, CEO and Co-Founder, ZonedIn

During his time here at Fanshawe College, Brad Smith came up with an idea to create a ‘real life video game for sports’ called ZonedIn. Using the ZonedIn app, athletes, particularly skateboarders, are required to record themselves performing the sport in order to succeed in the game. Mike Sloan, as Brad’s professor, provided Brad with guidance and advice in an effort to turn this innovative idea into a legitimate career opportunity for Brad, both prior to and after his graduation. Last spring, Mike got to see the ZonedIn team in action at the 2015 Collision Start-Up Conference in Las Vegas, to which they received an exclusive invite. ZonedIn is a true success story when it comes to Innovation. For more, check out the success story on YouTube: https://youtu.be/dedHvdVOgYc

Title: Geocaching: An Innovative Learning Activity to Enhance Nursing Students’ Navigation of Community Resources

Researchers: Pat Bethune-Davies, Professor, School of Nursing, Karen Jenkins, Professor, School of Nursing, Sarah Benbow, Professor, School of Nursing

Nurse educators are continually challenged to find ways to contextualize community practice and apply it to real world situations (Kindrik Leh, 2011). Understanding the complexity of community practice is often abstract to nursing students. Engaging students in activities that enhance their knowledge surrounding community health nursing results in meaningful learning and lays a foundation for professional practice. In the context of an increasingly digital world, an activity was created that facilitated learning about community and system navigation using GPS cell phone technology based on geocaching. Geocaching is a worldwide activity in which Global Positioning System (GPS) technology is used to pinpoint a location and to hide and seek “treasures”. In an adaptation of geocaching, nursing students used their cell phone GPS to locate and learn about community agencies/ “treasures”. Following the geocaching, students completed a “chalk talk” (Brookfield, 2006, 2013) exercise that uncovered interesting student reflections related to system navigation, social determinants of health, and community resources. Students were surprised by the breadth and depth of community resources available. Students critically reflected on challenges in locating community agencies. These insights led to greater awareness of barriers clients may encounter in accessing community resources and an increased understanding of the nurse’s role in supporting and facilitating system navigation.
Judges and Supporters

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