

Report from Like Schools 2017 Spring Annual Meeting

Group: Small/Liberal Arts Schools

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Question: Does anyone have examples of collaborations between academic institutions?

- Texas Lutheran partnering with the University of Texas system for their BSN students who can then get into doctoral programs in the UT system
- A number of partnerships exist with programs that offer the associate degree
- The challenge is collecting data on RN to BSN program students, especially when working on the AACN survey, because it's difficult to track students in the AD program
- There is a lot of institutional collaboration for interprofessional education focusing on PT, OT, social work, etc.

Question: Given the emphasis on primary care and population health, can anyone share any innovative partnerships that support clinical experiences in these areas?

- Several schools talked about placements in occupational and employee health sites
- Messiah College in Pennsylvania has a community-based training program consisting of six weeks of interprofessional education where they receive practicum hours in a shelter with intense training. Students get a certificate for a domestic violence and the program has been extremely successful with many students being offered nursing positions due to their ability to articulate the specific issues related to domestic violence.
- Other schools have engaged in partnerships with the public school system. Students partner with schools and do an assessment of their environment. They can then identify issues in the area and develop a plan for the school and ways to address it within their community.
- Community health course partners with Goodwill Industries to provide healthcare to their employees.
- A dean expressed challenges for an RN to BSN program and getting students into the public health arena. Just developed a partnership with the Red Cross so that students can go into the community and do education, disaster drills, and medication education.
- Discussion on partnering with a long-term facility – community education was needed and nursing students go in and hold community fairs.
- Partnering with medical reserve corps staff
- Partnerships with social work students

- Partnering with the communities within the metropolitan area that are underserved, ethnically diverse areas, and hire health workers to go into the communities with the students.

Question: What types of questions or concerns have schools had as they transition into becoming a school of nursing?

- It has been challenging in the small schools that only have departments and would like to increase their visibility. The idea is that this may help recruit students in other programs and may attract donors.
- Some faculty fear becoming a school of nursing because then they think it's part of becoming a university
- There is a need for a voice at the top that recognizes the importance of being a school of nursing.
- Few small schools are moving to a school of nursing, so it doesn't seem like a big issue.

Question: AACN is looking to spotlight innovations in clinical learning environments that are used to prepare nurses for professional practice. Please share what's happening at your school or in your local community that is changing how we educate today's RNs.

- One program has tried a different approach, with their students begin taking nursing courses as freshman. They then take their general education courses in decreasing order. The idea is to put the students in the highest complexity environment in their sophomore year. This has been shocking to their clinical partners as the students don't start with the basic skills.

Question: The Governance Task Force is requesting feedback from the membership on AACN's governance structure. The task force is exploring frameworks that support nimbleness, innovation, timeliness, collaboration, and inclusivity. Do you have any suggestions for the task force to consider?

- More attention needs to be given to the proportional representation. Look at what portion of the membership is represented from different types of schools.
- Also, proportional representation on every committee. Challenges arise where recommendations are made that are out of the scope for what is possible to a small school.
- Structure of governance should be a formal framework. Historically, the perception is that the larger schools dominate the conversation. However, you need to formalize it to ensure that not just one voice is being heard
- Inform potential candidates about the expectations of the time and financial commitment for positions on the board and committees.

Question: How to engage in and facilitate scholarly writing?

- Partner with the university for writing resources for faculty. This gives faculty an opportunity to receive feedback on their writing.
- Collaborate with other institutions for writing purposes.
- Partnering with a clinical site is mutually beneficial and allows for both writing development for faculty and research opportunities for the clinical site in particular sites seeking magnet status.

Question: What are some questions and challenges related to developing graduate programs in nursing?

- Schools with new DNP Programs are struggling to get the numbers and need more resources in terms of how they should present this to the administration.
- Look at what the mission is and fulfill the educational mission of the school. After consideration of this aspect, developing a graduate program may not be the right direction for the school.
- Look at mission but also the workforce needs in the area where the school is located.
- Growing slowly is key. Developing a 5-year budget with smaller cohorts is more manageable.