# Streamlining Instructional Technology in a College of Nursing

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**Topic:** Academic Nursing: Excellence & Innovation

**Category:** Quality Improvement/Evidence-Based Practice Project

## Abstract

**Background/Introduction**
Nursing education relies on the application of health technologies to facilitate the development of student knowledge and clinically competent skills. The associated integration of advanced instructional technology has led to the evolution in learning modalities, pedagogical foundations, faculty responsibilities, and learning outcomes. Coupled with the COVID-19 pandemic the long-term role of digital technologies have entrenched nursing education.

**Purpose**
The University of Colorado, College of Nursing identified a need for a centralized decision-making structure to provide faculty with a forum to address instructional technology needs and requests. The shared-governance process raises awareness of coexisting resource, reduces duplication of similar technology solutions, establishes a mechanism to facilitate selection and need for new technology, and achieves consensus through multistakeholder discussions.

**Methods or Processes/Procedures**
The College Dean established an Educational Technology (ET) Committee representing each nursing specialty program, faculty support group, finance, and information technology departments for the inaugural year. The Specialty Director of the Health Care Informatics program and the lead Instructional Design Specialist were appointed Co-Chairs. The Committee meets monthly to establish a standardized process, identify deliverables, and vet faculty requests for education software and technologies.

**Results**
The inaugural year deliverables included the creation of a Committee Charter, an evolving ET request workflow, electronic ET request form, and a digital product integration board. A total of 9 faculty requests were submitted with 3 requests approved with funding, 2 approved with grant funding or without fees, 1 approved without funding, and 3 pending reviews.

**Limitations**
The ET Committee does not fund instructional technology requests. The College Executive Committee determines the funding status for approved requests based on the number of nursing specialty programs interested in technology.

**Conclusions/Implications for Practice**
The ET Committee provides an important service by reducing duplicate instructional technology and increasing utilization of existing programs. Committee persistence continues under the Office of the Dean with funding options under consideration.

## Biography

Sharon Giarrizzo-Wilson, PhD, RN-BC, CNOR, FAAN is an Assistant Professor and Specialty Director for Healthcare Informatics with the CU College of Nursing. Board-certified in nursing informatics and perioperative nursing, Dr. Giarrizzo-Wilson is an experienced clinician with leadership, project management and patient safety expertise. Informatics experiences include the specification and maintenance of eCQMs for CMS and Office of the National Coordinator EHR Incentive Program, and maintenance of the AORN nursing terminology relational database and documentation framework. Her PhD in Nursing from Loyola University, Chicago research focused on the capture and data structured for perioperative patient transitional care communications in the EHR.

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