

100% Increase in BSN Admission Goals and Maintain Quality: A Successful Academic Practice Partnership

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Abstract

Background/Introduction

The nursing shortage is at unprecedented crisis; therefore, the demand to increase the number of new to practice registered nurses is greater than the supply. “U.S. nursing schools turned away 91,938 qualified applications from baccalaureate and graduate nursing programs in 2021 due to an insufficient number of faculty, clinical sites, classroom space, clinical preceptors, and budget constraints.”

Purpose

The purpose of this presentation is to explore how a small, private College leveraged a successful Academic Practice Partnership to result in doubling BSN admission goals (250 students/year) while maintaining quality outcomes.

Methods or Processes/Procedures

To increase BSN graduates prepared to work in a complex, challenging healthcare environment the College and a local healthcare system partnered together to build the resources needed to expand enrollment. The healthcare system supported the budget to increase faculty and laboratory space, committed to provide quality clinical sites and preceptors, and created financial support programs for students while they attend school. The College was innovative in how to restructure the curriculum to be more efficient, offer the program in a hybrid delivery model to decrease the need for physical space, capitalize on simulation, and provide attractive opportunities for faculty and students.

Results

The partnership of the College and local health system has successfully resulted in phasing in an increase of BSN admission. The College continues to maintain a 95% NCLEX pass rate and 92% retention rate average over the last decade while the health system hires ~70% of the College’s graduates in a competitive market. Student, graduate, alumni, and employer satisfaction rates remain high.

Limitations

Partnerships require a significant amount of intention, collaboration, and communication. The work is time consuming and may not fit all circumstances.

Conclusions/Implications for Practice

An Academic Practice Partnership is successful when it is a win-win for each partner. Partnerships need to flourish to support the challenges in education and practice.

Biography

Dr. Chris-Tenna Perkins is the Campus Director and Dean of Academic Affairs at Bon Secours Memorial College of Nursing. She holds a PhD in Nursing Education from University of Northern Colorado, a Master of Science degree in Nursing from Virginia Commonwealth University, and an Associate and Bachelor of Science degrees in nursing from Bluefield State College. Dr. Perkins is an adult nurse practitioner and certified nurse educator with 27 years of nursing experience. She has 21 years of service at Bon Secours Memorial College of Nursing where she has had a variety of teaching and leadership experiences.

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