Developing PhD Capacity: The Fulbright Mechanism as a Means of Developing International Nursing Scholars

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Objective

Identify strategies for use of the Fulbright mechanism to build PhD capacity.
Need for International Scholars: Building Global Health

• Global health
  • Lack of consensus regarding what it means
  • Crucial role in both global security and the security of the U.S. population (WHO, 2019)
• Global nursing: relatively new term
• Nursing/Midwifery involvement crucial for global health security
• Projects present unique challenges, impacting partnerships
  • Challenging to initiate & manage
• Theory-driven efforts crucial for strong foundation, sustained efforts, and building transformative international scholarship
Model for upscaling global nursing and midwifery partnerships

Background

• Awarded a U.S. Faculty Fulbright Scholar Award to South Africa 2012-13. Host: University of Johannesburg
  • Many Fulbright mechanisms, but the Core U.S. Fulbright Awards are the gem
Senator J. William Fulbright (1905-1995)

- Established 1946
- Sends U.S. academics and professionals overseas and brings scholars and professionals from abroad to the U.S.
- Sponsored by U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs
- Administered by the Institute of International Education’s Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES)
Fulbright Mechanisms

- Fulbright Scholar opportunities for U.S. faculty and professionals
  - 3 Baylor University LHSON faculty have received Fulbright Awards
- Fulbright Visiting Scholar Opportunities
  - Baylor University LHSON currently has 1 scholar
- Fulbright general requirements
  - U.S. citizenship
  - A Ph.D. or professional/terminal degree
  - Teaching experience as required by award
  - In general, preference for Fulbright Scholar opportunities is given to candidates who have not previously received a Fulbright Scholar grant
Who are Fulbrighters?

- Grantees from ~ 500 institutions, 50 states, D.C., and 2 territories
- All levels and ranks of academe, tenured and untenured
- Postdoc and new faculty
- Professionals, artists, writers, independent and retired scholars
- From every type of institution
- Research awards → language skills appropriate for project
- 80% require PhD
- 2001-2014 → ~ 90 to nurses/midwives received Core U.S. Fulbright Awards
  - 2015-2019 → 3,209 awards with 40 to nurses/midwives (1.1%)
2014-15 U.S. Scholar Grants by Activity

- **Teaching**: 20.7%
- **Research**: 33.8%
- **Teaching/Research**: 37.7%
- **Seminar**: 7.7%
Facts About South Africa

• Official Name: Republic of South Africa (RSA)
• Governance: Parliamentary Republic
• 9 Provinces
• Official Languages: Afrikaans, Northern Sotho, English, Northern Ndebele, Southern Sotho, Swazi, Tsonga, Tswana, Venda, Xhosa, Zulu
• Currency: South African Rand
• Capitals: Pretoria, Cape Town, Bloemfontein
• Size: 1,221,037 km; 25th largest country
• Population: 56 million (2016), 24th most populous nation
• Life Expectancy: 64 years (2016)
• 7.1 m living with HIV/AIDS, adult prevalence 18.9+% (Ground Zero)

Source: WHO, 2015. https://www.who.int/hiv/data/Country_profile_South_Africa.pdf?ua=1
Impact of Fulbright

• Much written about the impact of Fulbright experience on the recipients personal and professional life.
  • Less on the impact on the host institution and what long-term sustained change might occur for both the scholar as well as the institution.
  • Almost nothing about impact on scholarship/research; nothing found related to knowledge discovery (PhD)
Study Aims

• Understand meaning of a Fulbright exchange for both the awardee and host institution in transforming knowledge and nursing scholarship both in the host county and in the U.S.

• Provide an indepth description of prolonged exchange experience on the institution and recipient in building nursing scholarship, and

• Understand sustainable connections achieved from an intense exchange process
Methodology

- Reflection – critical engagement to gain meaning & make sense of a specific situation; a form of qualitative research (Walker, Read, & Priest, 2013)
  - Critical value during the process of individuals and organizations (Van Woerkom, 2010)
- Case study design
  - allowed exploration of the real-life situation of the meaning of the dual benefits for the awardee and the host institution (Creswell, 2017)
Analysis

- Systematic, in-depth, longitudinal examination of a targeted Fulbright experience was used to:
  - Provide in-depth description of prolonged exchange on the institution and recipient in building nursing scholarship, and
  - Understand sustained partnership and scholarship connections
Results

• 4 research foci were identified in the promotion of nursing/midwifery PhD scholarship
  • collaborative research
  • scholarly dissemination
  • scholar exchange
  • scholarly engagement
Collaborative Research

Use of Indigenous Herbs

Caring

Abuse in South African maternity settings is a disgrace: Potential solutions to the problem

Abuse of patients by healthcare staff in maternity settings has been reported globally, in high- and low-income settings. Such behaviors include verbal abuse, physical abuse, non-consensual care, non-consensual care, and sexual abuse. The rights-based approach provides an important framework.
Collaborative Dissemination
Collaborative Dissemination: 9 Publications, 3 Pending

Collaborative Dissemination: 17 Presentations


Scholarly Exchange

U of J Faculty

- Visiting Prof appointment 2013-2016
- 2 faculty completed a post-doc with the Watson Caring Science Institute
  - 1 UJ system grant to develop caring
  - 1 NRF award to develop caring science

Fulbright Scholar

- Visiting Prof appointment 2013-16; 2017-20
- Teaching → doctoral seminar, classes
- Conference development/participation
  - Annual Post-Doc Research Forum
  - SOMSA Annual Conference
Scholarly Engagement

- Visiting Professor (2 terms) @ UJ (through 2020)
  - Engage with PhD students: annual seminar, theses advisement
  - Participation on Doctoral Committees
    - External Examiner (5); Committee Member (3)
- Increase in # PhD UJ DON faculty
- Work extended beyond UJ DON
  - Project with homeopathy faculty: Dr. Radmila Razlog
    - Project: impact of common herbs/homeopathic tinctures on cervical cells
    - Student Fulbright award pending
- NIH grant application underway (target 11/2019)
  - Baylor LHSON, UJ DON, RSA DOH
On a Related Note....

- Development of DNP programs abroad is gaining traction.
  - Upscaling Nursing/Midwifery is urgently needed
  - Need for evidence-based health care

- Consultant work to develop a DNP program at UJ.
“Education is the great engine of personal development. It is through education that the daughter of a peasant can become a doctor, that the son of a mineworker can become the head of the mine that a child of farm workers can become the president of a great nation. It is what we make out of what we have, not what we are given, that separates one person from another.”

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela
1918-2013
Conclusions

- Fulbright program has 2 fundamental principles:
  - International partnership
  - Mutual understanding
- Sustained scholarship occurs following intense engagement between scholars with evidence of PhD enrichment
- Fulbright mechanism → viable opportunity to promote growth of PhD scholarship in nursing/midwifery on both sides of the globe.
Questions? Comments?

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https://eca.state.gov/fulbright