

GROUP DNP PROJECTS:

SHARING NATIONAL SURVEY RESULTS, EXPLORING NEXT STEPS, AND IDENTIFYING BEST PRACTICES

Project Team:

Jeannie Scruggs Garber, DNP, RN, NEA-BC
James Madison University

Linda Roussel, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, CNL, FAAN
Texas Woman's University

Sharon Guthrie, PhD, ARNP, CPNP, NCSN, RN-BC
Mount Mercy University

Cindy G. Zellefrow, DNP, MEd, RN, LSN, PHNA-BC
The Ohio State University

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Session Objectives:

- Provide an overview of the existing literature regarding group/team projects.
- Share current information and practices regarding group/team project processes.
- Facilitate discussion to determine the next steps in exploring best practices.

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Team



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Index Cards

Does your DNP program do group/team DNP Projects?

What are your burning questions about how group/team projects are carried out?



Contact information:

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Evolution of Work



October 2017

Question about DNP Projects Posted on AACN Discussion Board

January 2018

Open discussion session held at AACN Doctoral Education Conference (Naples, FLA)

January 2019

Presented national survey results at AACN Doctoral Education Conference (San Diego, CA)

August 2019

Facilitated an open conversation at DNP, INC National Conference about DNP project components/ national study findings (Washington, DC)

January 2020

Continued the conversation before AACN Doctoral Education Conference (Naples, FLA) AND presentation focused on informal interviews regarding group/team projects

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Literature Review- Group/Team Projects



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Results:

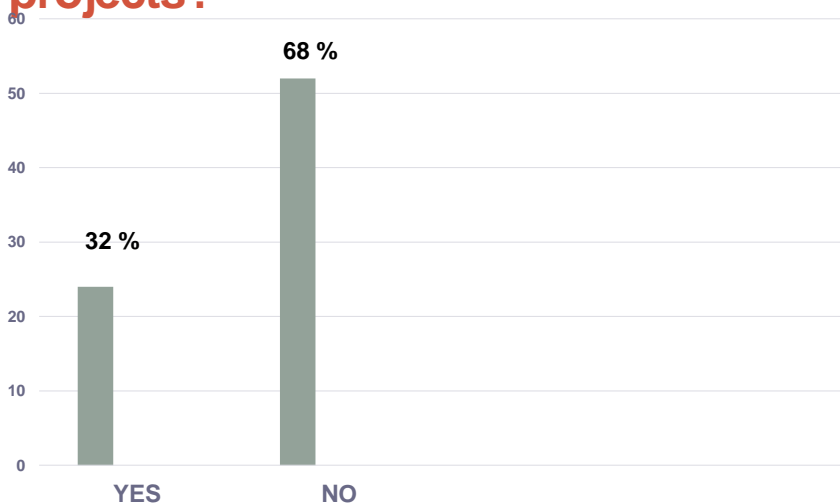
- **Literature focused on:**
 - group advising
 - case study/one institution/one story articles

- **Group projects mentioned in three pieces of literature**
 - Individual or student group projects (AACN 2015)
 - Survey of DNP programs done: 20 schools mention group projects (Minnick 2013)
 - “The published literature is lacking practical information on how to operationalize DNP group projects.” (Milner & DeNisco 2019)



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Does your program offer the option for students to engage in group DNP projects?



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DNP Group/ Team Projects

- National study – variability in....
 - How group projects are defined
 - How the work is divided among the group
 - Stage of planning/implementing group projects

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Conversations/Key Messages

- Same dialogue overall
- Same conversation specific to group/team projects:
 - How group projects are defined
 - How the work is divided among the group
 - Stage of planning/implementing group projects

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Interviews with DNP Program Faculty /Directors

Purpose:

To begin exploring Faculty-Student experiences with DNP Group/Team Projects.

Overall goal:

Describe Group/Team DNP Projects practices from the lived experience of selected schools engaged in this work.

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Interview Questions:

- *How did you decide on this team/group?*
- *Did the students approach you?*
- *Did you put the students in a team-based on their specialty/topic?*
- *Do you limit to 2 or 3 students?*
- *How do you decide?*
- *What formal processes do you have in place to do team/group projects? Contract?*
- *What if a student drops out? Can the student decide mid-way that they want to do this solo?*
- *What is your faculty team's make up? One faculty for three with the practice partner(s) and student?*
- *What have you noted regarding team dynamics (team science concepts)?*
- *Did students/faculty experience Tucker's team stages? Forming-Norming-Storming-Performing-Completion? If so, did students have an opportunity going through this to "work through" or "work it out" as a team?*
- *Final deliverables? All on one? Shared authorship? Does each do some type of manuscript where they are the lead?*

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Preliminary Themes from Interviews

Openness to the evolving process

Comfortable with ambiguity

Learning as we go

“Just in time” procedures and protocols

No “one-way” accepted as a standard for group/team projects

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Discussion.....

- Share Group/Team Project Experiences ...
- Discuss burning questions from index cards...
- Identify potential best practices specific to Group/Team Projects...

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