

Building Connections and Fostering Collaboration through MENTOR

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Problem & Literature Review

- International nurses and students face cultural, language, and healthcare system barriers during transition into U.S. practice.^{2,9,10}
- Limited funding, bureaucracy, and weak mobility programs restrict global nursing collaboration and curriculum development.
- Intercultural mentorship promotes cultural adjustment, reduces isolation, and strengthens students' sense of belonging.^{1, 3, 5, 7}
- Faculty mentoring and professional development improve retention, engagement, and access to academic and clinical opportunities.⁶
- Sustainable mentorship programs support long-term professional growth and successful adaptation.^{4,8}

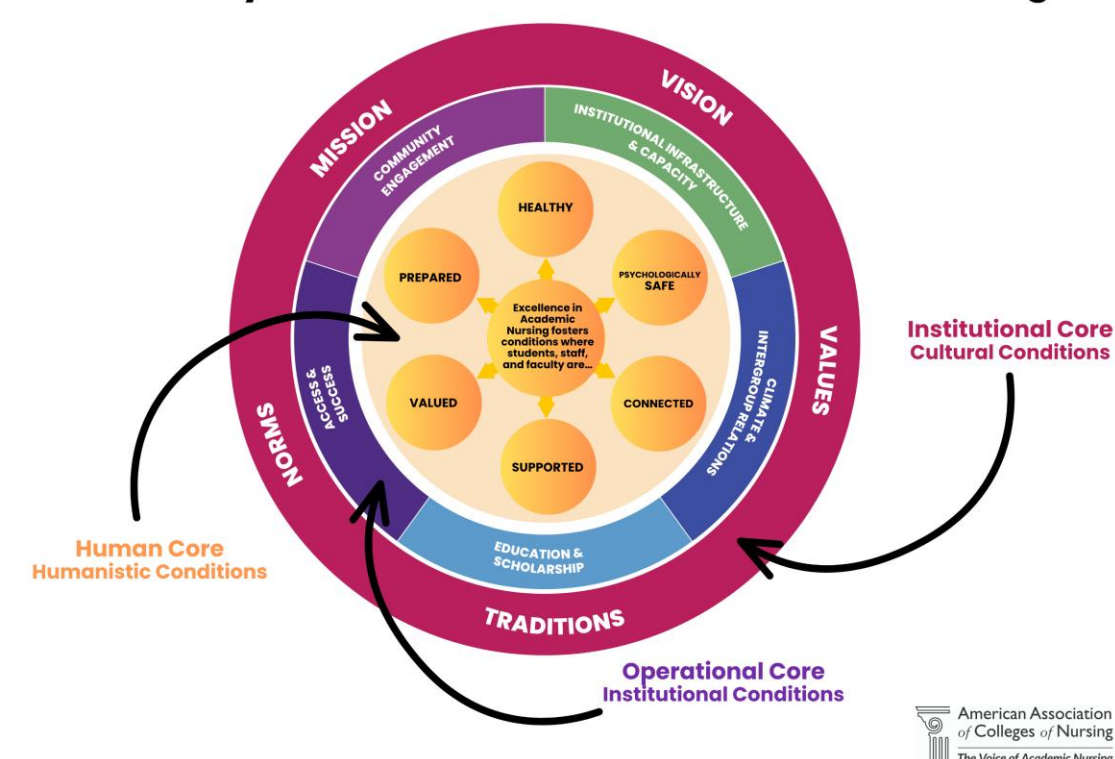
Purpose

- To create structured mentorship that support professional and academic development in nursing education.
- To strengthen international academic partnerships by promoting meaningful global collaboration between students and faculty.

Methods

- Setting: Virtual platform between CU & NTU
- Population: Nursing students from both universities
- Intervention: **MENTOR**-Facilitated Virtual Exchange for Global Nursing and Healthcare Discussions
- Theoretical Framework:

AACN Ecosystem of Excellence in Academic Nursing



Note: This figure adapted from Dr. Brigit Carter, AACN's Chief Access and Engagement Officer, excerpt from the Winter 2026 Edition of *The Connector*.

Implementation & Preliminary Results

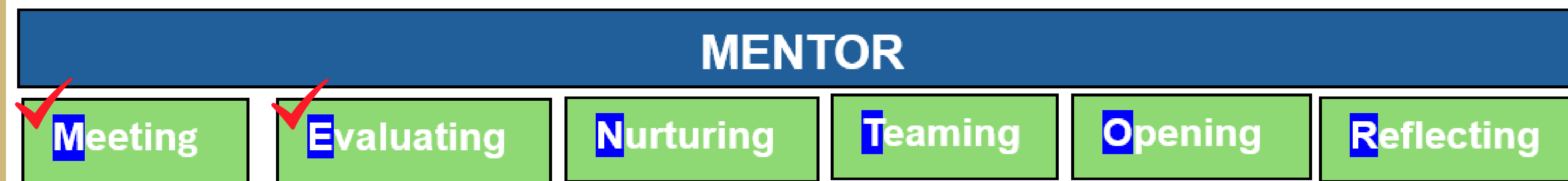


Figure 1. Demographic Characteristics of Participants by Country

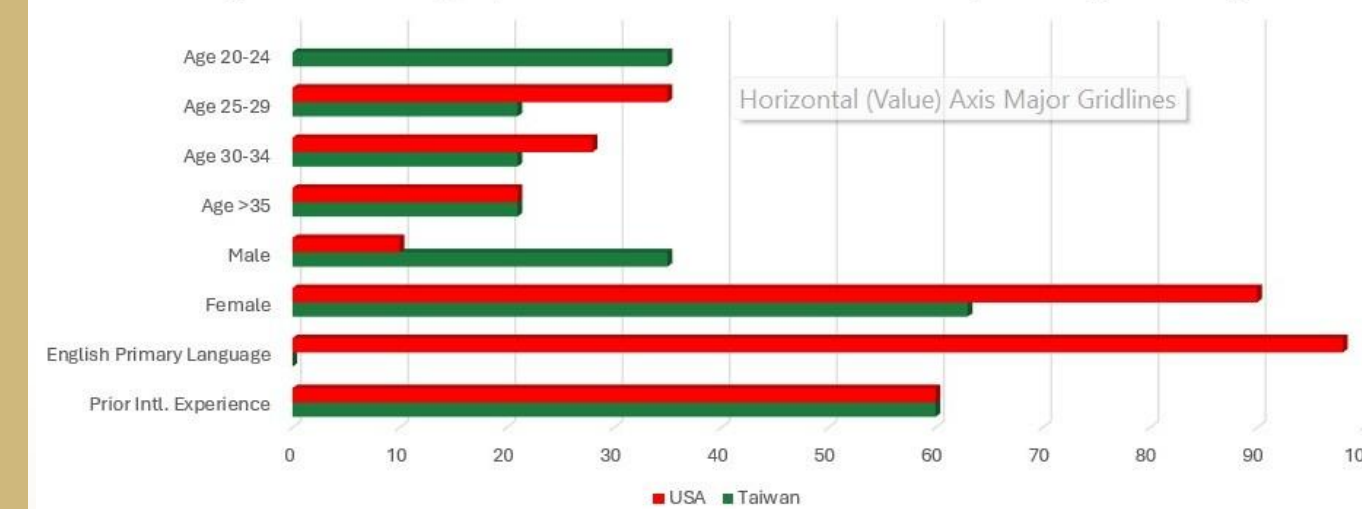
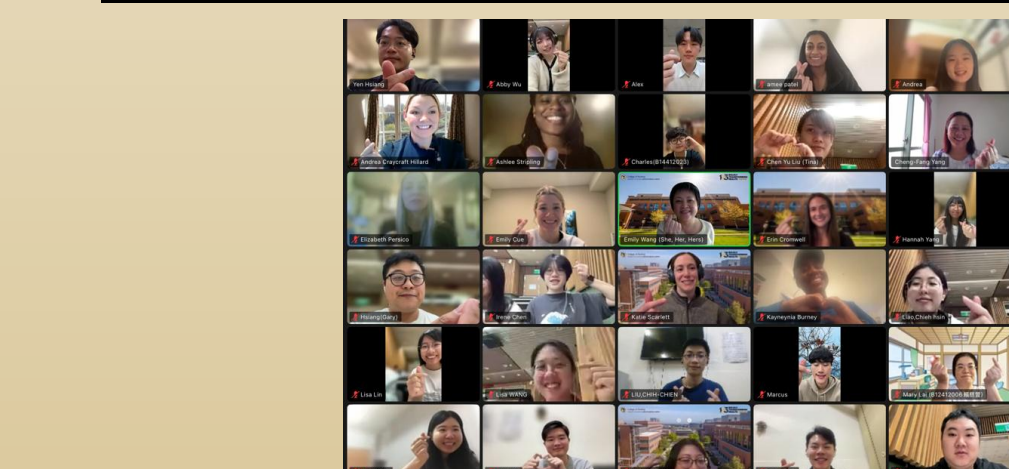
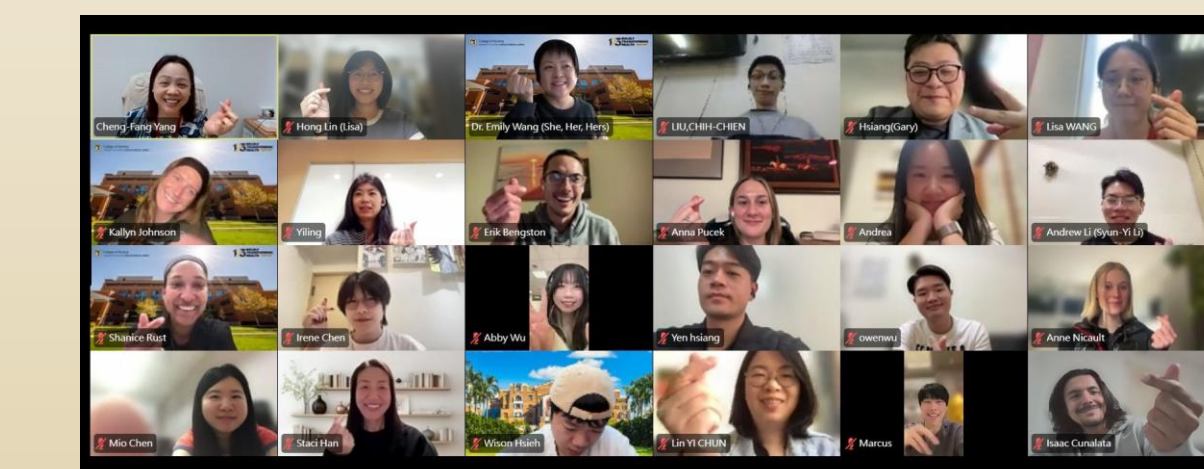
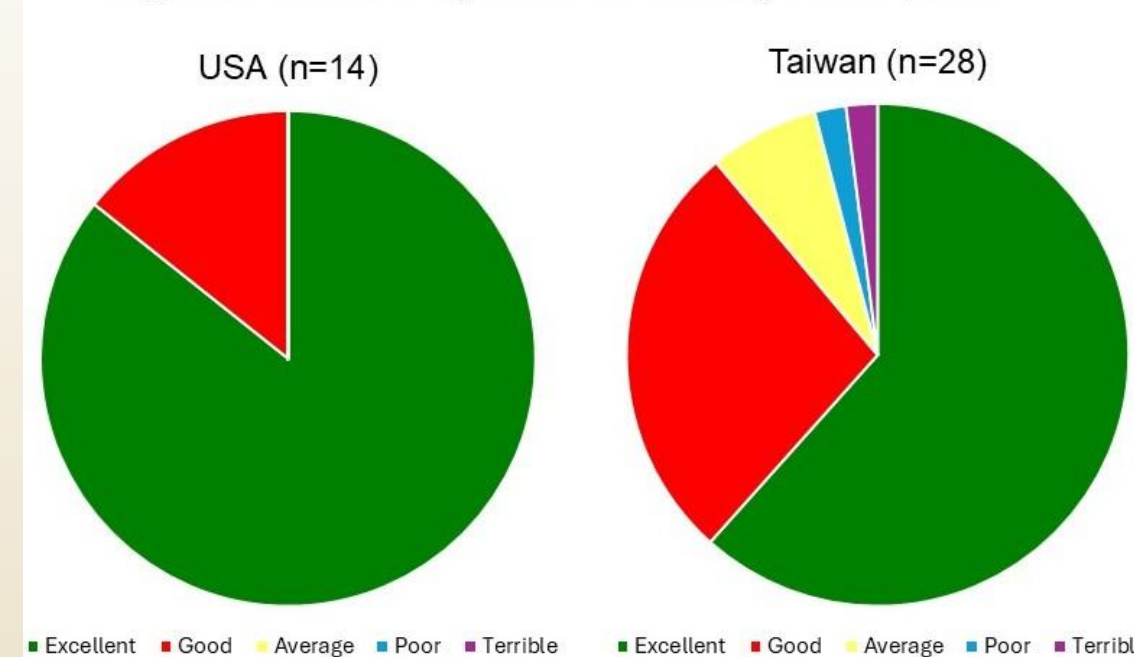


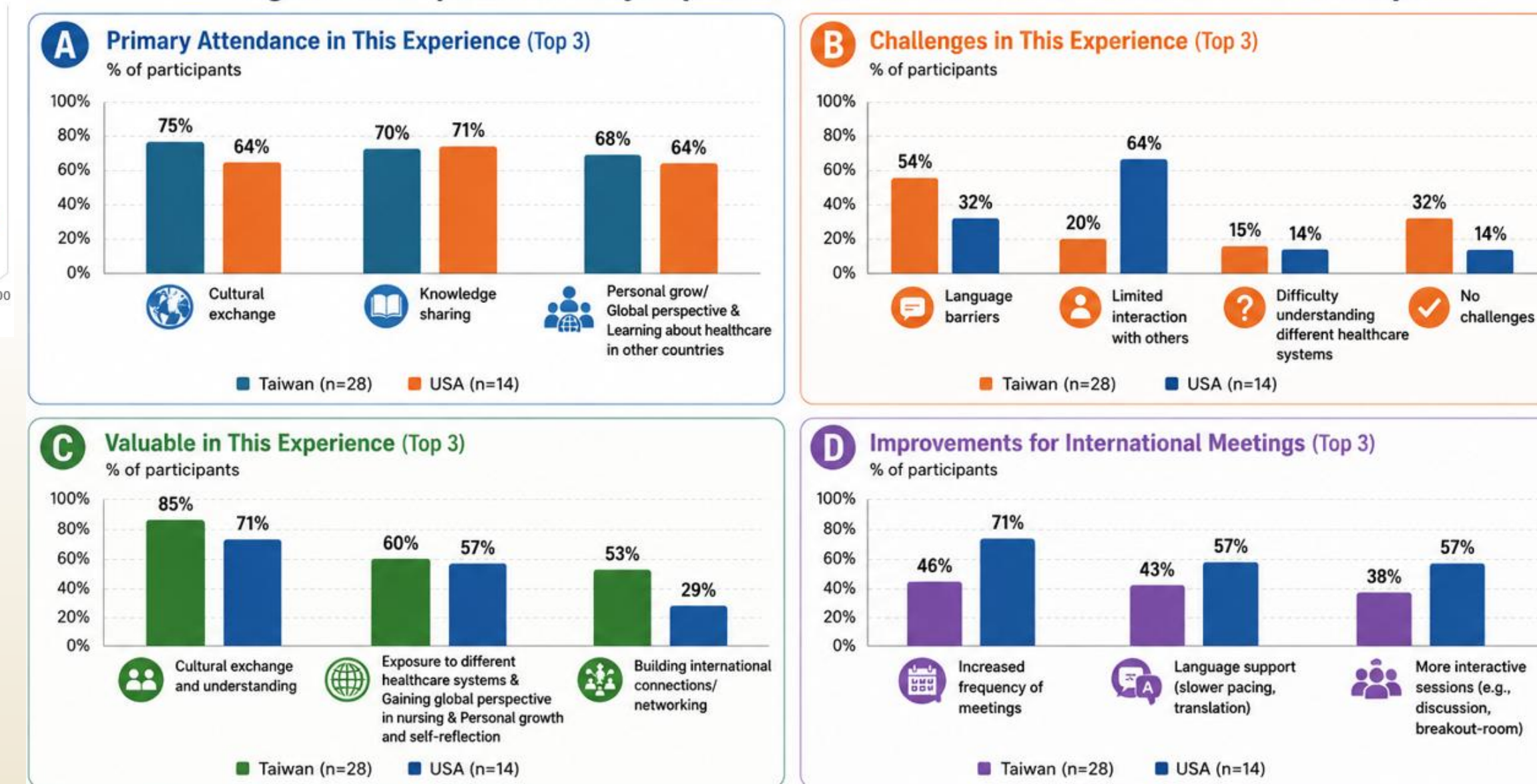
Figure 3 Overall Experiences among Participants



Note: Photos used with participants' permission (taken on 4/1/26 and 4/8/26).

MENTOR

Figure 2. Comparison of Key Experience Themes between Taiwan and USA Participants



Note: This figure was adapted from a visual generated with ChatGPT by OpenAI for improved clarity and visibility

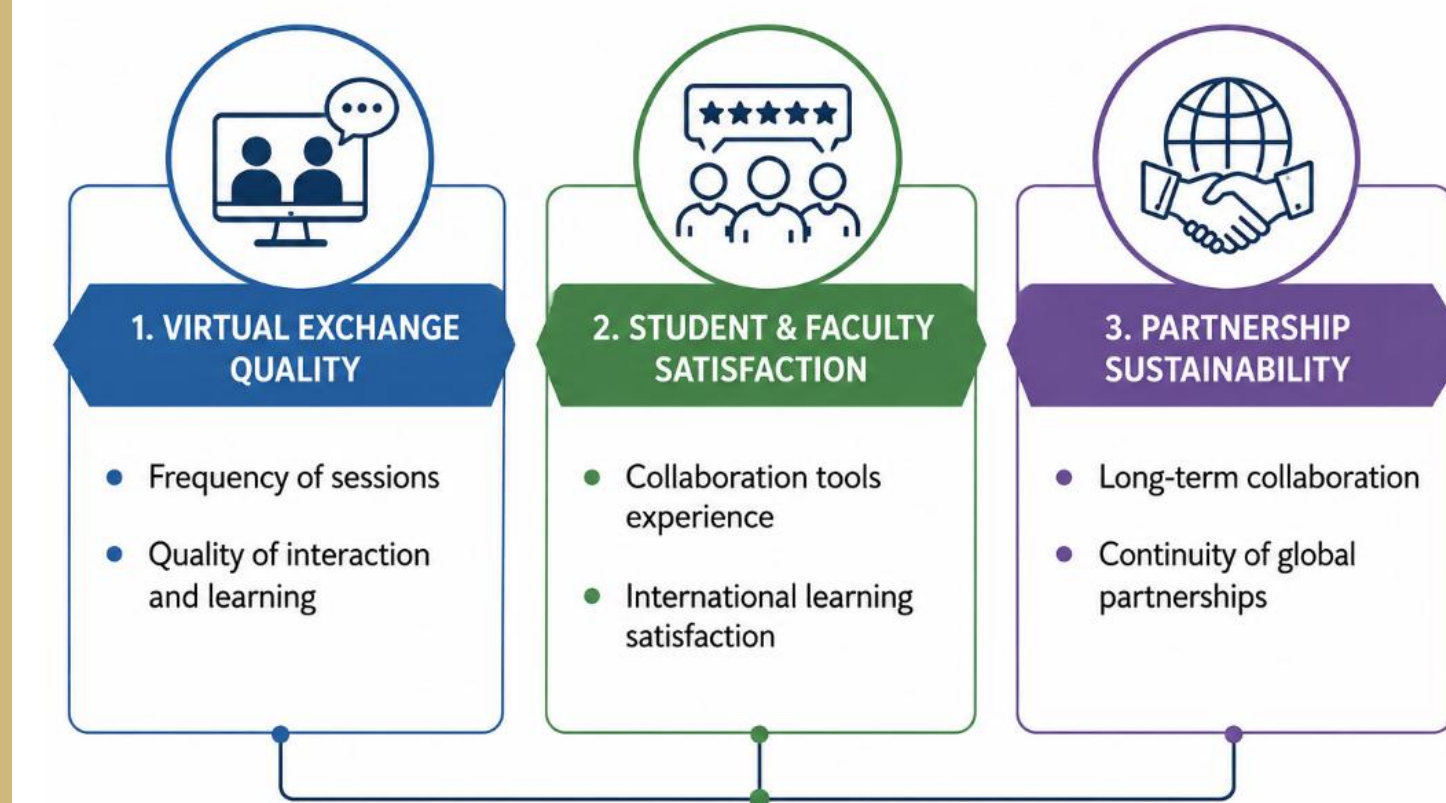
Discussion

- 28 Taiwanese and 16 U.S. students participated in global healthcare and cultural exchange discussions.
- Participants gained global nursing perspectives and improved cross-cultural understanding.
- Most were non-native English speakers; language barriers were the main challenge.
- Cultural exchange, global healthcare learning, and personal growth were the most valued outcomes.
- Taiwan participants prioritized cultural exchange, while facing more language-related challenges.
- USA participants emphasized interaction opportunities and preferred more frequent and interactive meetings.
- Participants recommended more meetings, stronger language support, and more interactive activities.
- Overall feedback was positive, with USA participants more likely to rate the program as "Excellent".

Next Steps

- Focus on **ME^{NTOR}**:
 - Provide Language/Support: Slower pacing; Translation tools; Pre-session materials; Session recording & summaries
 - Scheduling/Program Support: More frequent meetings; Adjust session length and pacing
 - Engagement/Interactivity: Expand breakout room discussions; Create smaller learning cohort
 - Design/Content Enhancement: Case-based learning; Integrate interdisciplinary perspectives; Include guest speakers from diverse backgrounds
 - Cultural Exchange/Inclusion Support: Expand both virtual and in-person; Incorporate peer mentoring or buddy systems
 - Feedback/Monitoring: Identify gaps; Improve accessibility and inclusion for all students

Anticipated Outcomes



Note: This figure was adapted from a visual generated with ChatGPT by OpenAI for improved clarity and visibility



Building Connections and Fostering Collaboration through "MENTOR"

Shu-Yi Wang, PhD, RN, APRN-CNS, CGNC

Biography

Dr. Wang is a Full Professor in the College of Nursing at the University of Colorado, with nearly 28 years of experience in nursing education, oncology, and academic leadership. Throughout her career, she has made sustained contributions to scholarly journals and held key roles in program administration, clinical practicum coordination, and career development. She is deeply committed to educating and mentoring future nurses, with a focus on helping students achieve academic and clinical excellence, while also fostering their personal and professional growth and encouraging innovation in the nursing profession.

A Taiwanese native, Dr. Wang emphasizes the importance of cross-cultural collaboration in nursing education and healthcare. She actively promotes partnerships between American nursing programs and international institutions and serves as a Visiting Professor at National Taiwan University, where she leads collaborative initiatives in research and education.

Dr. Wang is widely respected for exemplifying a role-model approach to nursing profession, in which compassion, clinical expertise, and professionalism are taught as inseparable components of excellent care. Her outstanding mentorship, leadership and scholarship have been recognized through numerous honors at the regional, state, national, and international levels from leading universities and professional nursing organizations, culminating in her recent induction into the Western Academy of Nurses.

She often reminds students, "A good nurse remembers that, for each patient, he or she may be one of your 100 patients, but you are his or her one and only nurse." Additionally, she has actively participated in several professional nursing organizations that advance the development and visibility of the nursing profession. Colleagues and students describe her as a tireless servant-leader whose passion for nursing is both inspiring and contagious.

Contact Information



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