

# **iCoN: iPad Initiative**

*Transforming Nursing Education  
at University of Cincinnati College of Nursing*

*AACN Innovations in Professional Nursing Education  
2015 Awards Submission*



**UC Nurses. We See Leaders.**

Ann Cary, PhD, MPH, RN  
AACN Membership Committee, Chair  
American Association of Colleges of Nursing  
One Dupont Circle, NW Suite 530  
Washington, DC 20036

June 2, 2015

Dear Dr. Ann Cary,

On behalf of the University of Cincinnati College of Nursing (CoN), we would like to formally nominate the College's iPad initiative, iCoN, for the AACN Innovations in Professional Nursing Education Award in the Academic Health Center (AHC) category.

### **Description of the iCoN iPad Initiative**

Our iCoN initiative is a multi-year undertaking by UC College of Nursing faculty, instructional designers, IT staff, and students to transform the delivery of nursing education in the classroom, simulation, and clinical settings through the use of iPads.

The initiative was titled iCoN because at the UC College of Nursing, we are committed to being icons for what innovative nursing education looks like. The initiative, dating back to 2011, included the adoption of iPads as a standardized computing device for faculty, students and staff in the undergraduate baccalaureate and Doctor of Nursing Practice programs.

The roll-out occurred in three phases:

- Faculty and staff development through multiple iPad Institutes (a two-day immersive iPad training program followed by individual workshops)
- Classroom and simulation space upgrades to incorporate iPad related devices and technologies, such as Apple TVs, AirWatch, and iPad stands
- Student roll-out of iPads - Beginning Fall 2013, all incoming BSN and DNP students were required to purchase an iPad. The number of students has grown each year, and now includes some MSN student cohorts.

### **Catalyst for Change**

As part of the initiative, every entry-level course was rebuilt in iBook format which allows videos, links, and interactive content to be included directly in an iTunes course. eTextbooks are recommended. This action provided linkages between textbook material, iBook lectures and content delivery in the classroom. In addition, electronic nursing reference materials and several relevant Apple applications (apps) were provided to the students.

The iPad Initiative supports an integral component of our CoN vision which is: "Through creative leveraging of technology, UC College of Nursing will lead the transformation of health care in partnership informed by the people we serve."

### **Timeline & Outcomes**

The timeline dates back to 2011 when testing and infrastructure enhancements began for the

required technologies. The initial training of faculty was held in spring 2012 and was identified as the iPad Institute. Faculty participants developed implementation plans utilizing the iPad as a tool designed to develop innovative teaching strategies which would support improved student outcomes. Each faculty then reported back to the Institute after one year on how their plans were incorporated into the classroom and evaluated. In fall 2013, approximately 240 students initiated the use of the iPad, followed by approximately 400 students in fall, 2014. A research study is currently underway to measure long-term outcomes. Short-term outcomes include:

**Grading:** Faculty members have identified grading efficiencies as a positive outcome of the initiative. Student, Lisa Johnson, said her faculty's use of iAnnotate "really elevated grading papers and giving feedback to another level" and described her experience with the iPad in the classroom as "fantastic."

**Standardized Suite of Apps:** Developing a community of practice around a suite of apps has provided the opportunity for collaboration and the ability for new types of assignments, such as video presentations, use of social media, and curation of online content. Student, Jeff Maler, shares that "There are other apps that are helpful along the way, like ones for heart murmurs. If I do end up on a cardiac floor, now I know what to listen for, and it gives me practice and a resource that is readily available. When you Google something, you don't know what you're getting."

### **Replication & Dissemination**

In addition to 15+ media citations in a variety of publications, and radio and television features, the journey of our initiative was developed into an iBook and published to iTunes U. It has been downloaded 144 times and is now featured as a Success Story by Apple in iTunes U. In addition, because of the full scope of implementation, UC College of Nursing was recognized in Fall of 2014 as an Apple Distinguished Program for innovation, leadership and educational excellence. Our CoN is one of only two nursing programs nationally with this distinction. The Apple Distinguished Program has highlighted our implementation and success for others to learn from.

### **Collaboration**

The internal and external partnerships that have been developed serve as competitive advantages for our nursing education programs. These include close collaborative relationships with Apple, University of Cincinnati Information Technology (UCIT), the research, instructional design and IT departments within the college, and most importantly, between course faculty members. In working both across departments within the college, and collaborating with outside entities such as Apple, the CoN was successful in training end-users, updating facilities, and redesigning courses for iPad content delivery.

### **Student Outcomes:**

Most importantly, student outcomes have been enhanced. One anonymous student evaluation comment in the undergraduate genetics course stated "I really enjoyed the pedigree project (app) because I liked that I was able to take something that we learned in class and apply it to my own life. Also, I feel like that is a majority of what our duty as a nurse

would be to do, so I thought it was beneficial to construct one as practice. I also enjoyed the flipboard project (app) as opposed to the paper. I think it was much more interactive and a great use of technology. I think I learned more by exploring articles on flipboard than I would have learned if I was stressing to find specific articles..."

### **AACN Mission & Vision Alignment**

We feel that the iCON iPad Initiative also aligns with AACN's mission to "advance nursing education, research, and practice". The use of iPads as instructional tools in the classroom permits innovative teaching strategies and student engagement. The iPad initiative has provided active research as a SoTL project to advance nursing science and nursing education. As a practice tool, iPads have been incorporated into the clinical environment as a resource tool for students and an education tool for patients.

### **Advancement of Professional Nursing Education**

The move to the use of iPads in education at the CON has required faculty to move out of their "comfort zone" and focus on learner-centered educational activities that have enhanced student learning. Faculty have had the opportunity to experiment with new technology within the context of their own curriculum and courses."By innovating our classrooms with iPad technology and active learning strategies, we are able to implement a "Flipping the Classroom" model in which the didactic lectures are delivered before students come to class. In doing so, in-class time is spent on maximizing the learning experience by facilitated discussion and reinforcement of concepts," says Matt Rota, director of instructional design.

### **Innovation Summary**

The UC iCoN iPad Initiative has transformed the way nursing education materials are delivered to, and consumed by students. Use of iPads has encouraged innovative teaching strategies, promoted faculty engagement in new teaching strategies, and supported faculty involvement in self-evaluation. Building the Institute infrastructure, maintaining long-term training of College faculty and staff, developing communities of practice, and providing sustainability are ways in which this innovation stands out.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to consider the nomination of the UC iCoN iPad Institute at the University of Cincinnati College of Nursing for the AACN Innovations in Professional Nursing Education Award in the Academic Health Center (AHC) category. In closing, it is important to recognize that the Apple corporation development executive, Sarah Farrell, PhD identified the UC College of Nursing as an innovator in the use of iPads in education across the nation. It is our hope that our leadership in advancing nursing education through the use of the iPad is recognized with this award.

Sincerely,

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