

Evaluation of the Facilitated Learning to Advance Geriatrics (FLAG) Program for North Dakota Schools of Nursing Faculty

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INTRODUCTION

The North Dakota Partners in Nursing (PIN) Gerontology Consortium Project, housed within the North Dakota State University Department of Nursing, was established to "enhance the quality of care of older adults by improving access to a well-prepared and available gerontology workforce necessary to meet their needs."

- One of the major goals of the grant is that nursing students, faculty, and practicing nurses will have access to the best possible gerontology nursing education.
- An activity recently undertaken to accomplish this goal was the promotion of the FLAG Program.
- The PIN project provided a small financial stipend to help defray the cost.

STUDY AIMS

To evaluate the participants':

- Perceived value of the training,
- Level of agreement with meeting the FLAG outcomes, and
- The likelihood of the FLAG training positively impacting their institution.

METHODS

- Online survey design
- FLAG (Facilitated Learning to Advance Geriatrics) survey -
 - Six questions using Likert scale ((1=not at all likely; 5= very likely) and open-ended format.
- Data collection completed October, 2012
- Data analysis – descriptive

PARTICIPANTS

- N=9
- 100% female
- Completed the weeklong FLAG program conducted by the Minnesota Hartford Center of Geriatric Nursing Excellence, University of Minnesota
- Represented seven North Dakota colleges and universities

RESULTS

Perceived Value of Program

- ☐ Respondents rated the following:
- professional networking (\bar{x} =4.89),
 - online resources (\bar{x} =4.78),
 - geriatric nursing content (\bar{x} =4.78),
 - and mentoring (\bar{x} =4.75).

FLAG Outcomes Met

- ☐ Respondents' rated the following
- Implementation of their FLAG professional development plan will strengthen their role as a nurse educator (\bar{x} =4.89) and
 - Implementation of their FLAG project will focus in geriatric nursing at their institution (\bar{x} =4.78).

Positive Impact

- ☐ See Figure 1 below for respondents' rating of the likelihood that new practices will occur as a result of their FLAG experiences -

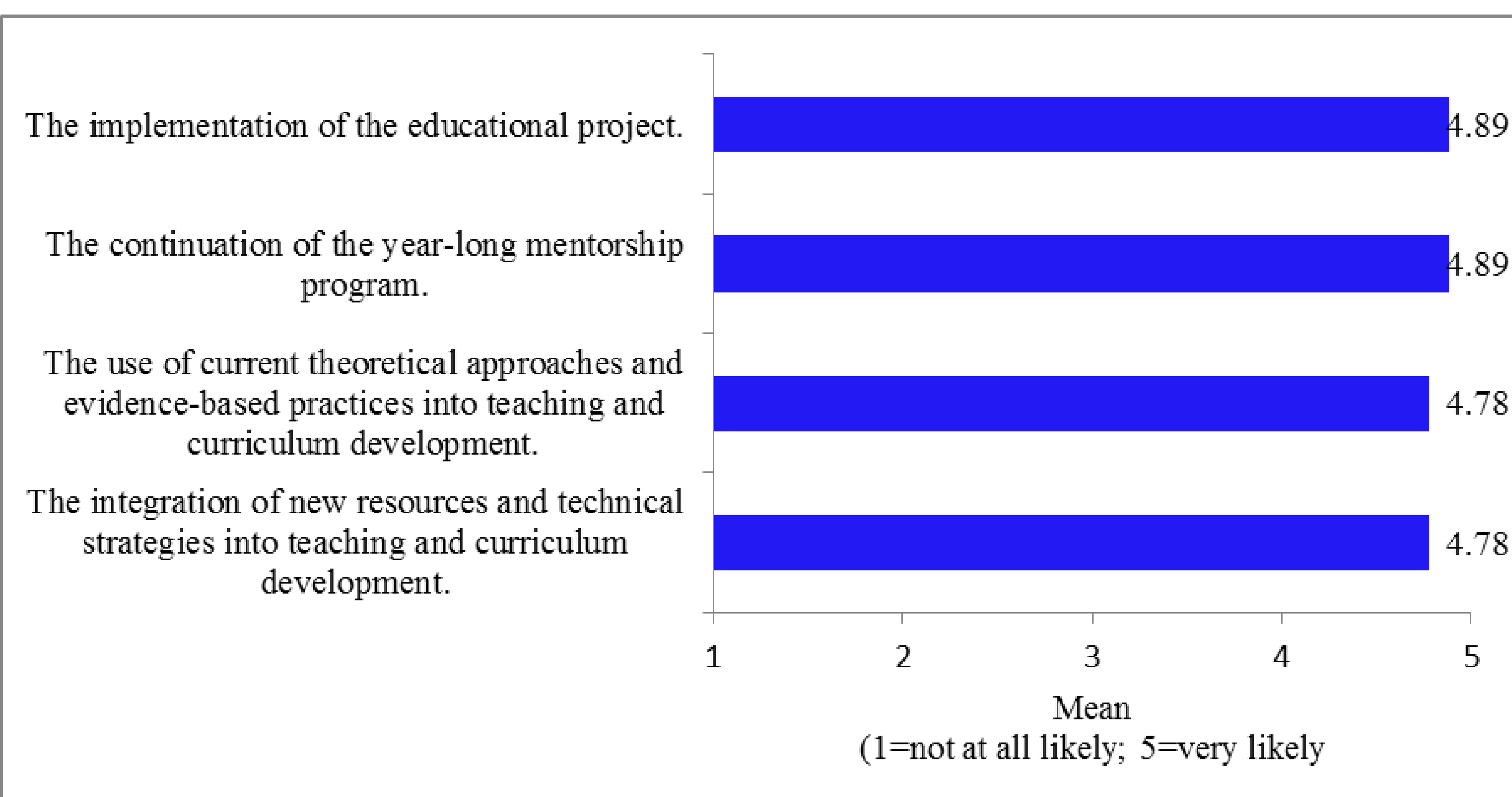


Figure 1. Likelihood that new practices will occur as a result of FLAG experiences

Responses to open ended questions:

- "I have over 20 years' experience in the care of older adults. This training will strengthen what I have."
- "It was an awesome experience. I am using of the techniques and the students seem to be enjoying the changes."
- "Thank you for the opportunity. I think this training should be mandatory for all faculty."

DISCUSSION

- ☐ Overall, respondents indicated that all aspects of the FLAG training were very valuable to their teaching.
- ☐ Respondents reported the implementation of their FLAG professional plan and project will strengthen their teaching at their respective institution.
- ☐ Respondents indicated it is very likely they will implement their educational project and continue their year-long mentorship program.
- ☐ Respondents reported that they are very likely to use current theoretical approaches, evidence-based practices, and new resources and technical strategies in teaching and curriculum development.
- ☐ A follow up survey will be conducted in March, 2013.



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