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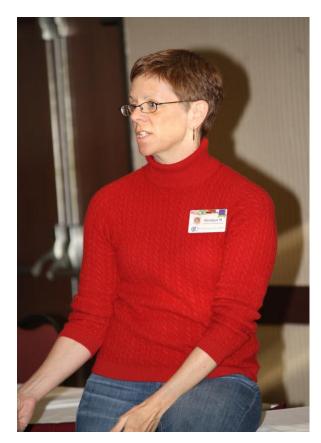PARTNERS INVESTING IN NURSING'S
future

PIN CONNECTION
An Update from
ND Partners in Nursing Gerontology Consortium Project

Reflections on the Positive Aspects of Gerontological Nursing

On February 3, 2012 Kirsten Reile, Director of Nursing at Elim – A Caring Community, Fargo, ND, gave mini-presentations to students attending the Nursing Student Association of North Dakota (NSAND) Convention held at the Doublewood Inn in Fargo, ND. NSAND is a non-profit, pre-professional organization comprised of nursing students across North Dakota. Currently there are seven colleges/universities in the association.

The presentation, titled "Reflections on the Positive Aspects of Gerontological Nursing" was based on Kirsten's personal experiences in her 31-year career in the field of long term care. Evaluations from the students were very positive. Students indicated that as a result of the presentations, they had a greater understanding of the personal rewards associated with gerontological nursing, the clinical skills required to work in gerontological nursing, and of gerontological nursing overall. Nursing students commented on their evaluations that Kirsten's passion was inspirational and they were very appreciative of the presentations.

Kirsten Reile is a member of the Partners in Nursing Gerontology Consortium and serves on the education work group. She is currently pursuing a Gerontological Nurse Certification through the University of Nebraska. Kirsten is a great role model for promoting the rewards and opportunities of caring for older adults.

The mission of the ND Partners in Nursing (PIN) project is to enhance the quality of care of older adults by improving access to a well prepared and adequate gerontology nursing workforce necessary to meet their needs.

The lift equipment station

The gerontology station

The assessment & skills station

Nursing Students Host Area Fourth Grade Students

The NDSU Student Nursing Association, Department of Nursing and the North Dakota Partners in Nursing Gerontology Consortium Project sponsored "Adventures in Nursing at NDSU" on March 31st to educate area fourth grade students about nursing through hands-on activities.

Nearly 30 fourth grade students had the opportunity to engage in a variety of stations taught by nursing students. The fourth graders learned how to properly wash their hands, how to listen to the heart and lungs, how to take blood pressure and how to find pulses. They also learned about sensory changes and conditions that may affect older adults. The popular activity revolved around patient lifts. Students were shown how patients are lifted into their beds and then they had the opportunity to operate the controls of the lift, under the supervision on the nursing students.

The idea for the Adventures in Nursing event originated from the Dickinson State University Student Nursing Association. Faculty and students involved with the Student Nurse Association (SNA) decided to collaborate to develop the event at NDSU.

"The Nursing Students did an excellent job in making sure the 4th graders not only had a good time but also learned about nursing and the role of a nurse in a variety of areas," said Karla Haug, assistant professor in Nursing and faculty advisor for SNA. "The SNA had a great time participating and organizing this event and hope to make it an annual event. We appreciate the opportunity and assistance from the PIN Grant to be involved in starting a great event to teach students about nursing."

FLAG (Faculty Learning about Geriatrics)

The Faculty Learning About Geriatrics (FLAG) is a nationally recognized faculty development program, designed for faculty in schools of nursing (associate and higher degree programs), doctoral nursing students, advanced practice nurses and staff nurse educators who want to develop or increase their expertise in teaching geriatric nursing. FLAG is a yearlong program that includes a summer institute and mentored professional development in teaching geriatric nursing. The training is offered by the Minnesota Hartford Center for Geriatric Nursing Excellence, University of Minnesota School of Nursing.

This year's summer institute is being held August 6-9, 2012 at the University of Minnesota campus in Minneapolis. This is the last year the FLAG summer institute will be free of charge. The application deadline is April 27, 2012.

Applications are now available at: https://www.regonline.com/minnesotaflaginstitute2012

The ND Partners in Nursing Gerontology Consortium Project is aimed at strengthening gerontology education for faculty, nursing students, and practicing nurses. Because the FLAG program is an excellent opportunity for faculty to enhance their gerontology teaching skills and to obtain access to quality teaching resources, the PIN Project will be providing financial support to accepted faculty members and doctoral nursing students from North Dakota. The financial stipend will help cover the costs of travel, meals, and/or lodging. The stipend amount will be dependent on the number of persons requesting a stipend. Interested parties should contact Jane Strommen, Project Coordinator, at 701-231-7238 or jane.strommen@ndsu.edu .

Dr. Christine Mueller (RN, FGSA, FAAN, Professor Chair) Adult and Gerontological Health Co-operative Unit, Long-term Care Professorship in Nursing University of Minnesota, School of Nursing, presenting at the November, 2011 consortium meeting

Dr. Loretta Heuer (RN, FAAN, Professor, NDSU Department of Nursing) presenting at the November, 2011 consortium meeting

Consortium Updates

The success of the Partners in Nursing Project is largely due to the commitment and involvement of nearly 50 consortium partners from across the state. The work groups have been making significant progress in meeting project objectives. While several activities have been reported in this newsletter, the work group members are busy with many other activities. Here is just a snapshot of their current work:

- The Education Work Group has identified resources for faculty, nursing students, and practicing nurses, researched tools for reviewing and mapping curriculum for gerontology competencies, and conducted a survey to better understand the current gerontology clinical experiences available in ND Schools of Nursing.
- The Positive Image Work Group is developing several videos to promote positive aspects of nursing (e.g. job satisfaction, lifelong service, and career opportunities) to be broadly available to a variety of stakeholders.
- The Recruitment Work Group is planning the *Summer Nurse Camp Edventure* for rural North Dakota high school students in Bismarck, ND on June 18-21, 2012. In addition, a toolkit for the Adopt-A-Grandparent Program has been developed and will be promoted to elementary teachers, long term care activity staff, and numerous youth groups.

- The Sustainability Work Group is identifying strategic partners and creating a plan to continue both project activities and the partnership.

For more information, please visit the project website – www.ndsu.edu/pin

What? North Dakota Partners in Nursing Gerontology Consortium Project is sponsoring a summer nurse camp for rural North Dakota incoming high school sophomores, juniors & seniors. In this camp, students will participate in hands-on activities, work with a high-tech patient simulator, job shadow, talk to current nursing students, and learn about the opportunities in a nursing career.

Where? University of Mary, Bismarck, ND

When? June 18-21, 2012

For more information contact: Jane Strommen
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Phone: 701-231-7238   Website: www.ndsu.edu/pin

Addition to the PIN Team

The NDSU research team, under the direction of Dr. Richard Rathge, will be undertaking the evaluation of the Partners in Nursing (PIN) grant. Kay Schwarzwalter, who will be coordinating the effort, has 16 years of research and evaluation experience in community health projects and needs assessments.

Kay can be reached at (701) 231-1058 or by email: kay.schwarzwalter@ndsu.edu

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