Background

- DEU started in 2003 on 9 East
  - 9 East is a 42-bed Neurovascular-Telemetry Unit
- DEU started in 2005 on 9 West
  - 9 West is a 25-bed Orthopedic Unit
Dedicated Education Unit

- Both units take junior and senior nursing students

- Each rotation lasts six weeks and students complete two medical-surgical rotations
Unit Approach

- **Clinical instructors**
  - Two students for the entire six weeks and the clinical instructors are practicing RN’s on the unit

- **Juniors**
  - Start with one patient, advance to two patients when ready

- **Seniors**
  - Care for two patients/student for entire six week rotation
Unit Approach – cont’d

- All staff on the unit are invested in the students learning experience
  - CNA’s teach ADL’s
  - Physicians interact with students and invite them to the OR to observe a surgery
  - Rehab staff teach proper body mechanics
  - Respiratory staff teach assessments
  - Dietary staff discuss nutrition issues
Roles and Responsibilities

- **Clinical Instructor (CI)**
  - Teach, mentor, guide and inspire students
  - Provide ongoing reflection on student performance
  - Collaborate with faculty for mid-term and final evaluation

- CI is baccalaureate prepared; CT is associate degree prepared--both referred to under the umbrella term of “CI”
Outcomes of the DEU

- Increased professionalism of nurses
  - Staff have returned to school for BSN, MS, PhD
  - Staff obtain certification in their specialty
  - Staff participate in scholarly presentations
  - “Positive turnover”
  - Clinical ladder promotion
  - DEU advocate and unit leadership
  - Ownership – “We are a DEU”
  - Adjunct faculty appointment
Expectations for a DEU Realized

- Practice informs education and education influences practice
- All nurses, especially in Magnet facilities, help to educate the next generation of nurses
- Clinical teaching will be better than under previous teaching methods
- Faculty and staff have a mutual respect for one another’s knowledge and skills
In Closing ........

- Not all DEUs’ need to look the same
- Creating a culture where learning is expected and encouraged helps improve and inform practice
- We are investing in our future
References