Establishment of a Designated Education Unit in an Inner City Medical Center

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Criteria for Partnership
- Baccalaureate Nursing Program
- Existing Clinical Affiliate Relationship
- Geographical Proximity

Partnership Commitments
- **University**
  - Selection of Clinical Faculty Coordinator
  - Placement in Curriculum
- **Medical Center**
  - Selection of Designated Unit
  - Selection of Clinical Instructors
  - Advanced Student Hospital Orientation
- **Shared**
  - Role Preparation of Clinical Faculty Coordinator
  - Role Preparation of Clinical Instructors
Goals of the Project

- Implementation of IOM Recommendations

- Maximal achievement of student learning outcomes grounded in clinical reality

- Preparation of “employment-ready” nurses

- Improved patient outcomes through involvement of clinical staff in student preparation
Challenges of the Project

- Academic department and nursing unit “buy-in”
- Change in Faculty Role and Schedule
- Creation of Clinical Instructor Role for Staff Nurses
- Academic and Clinical Preparation Expenses
Recommendations /Outcomes of the Project

- What were the two most important lessons learned from the project?
  1. Awareness of the different values of the Academic–Practice Partners.
  2. Joy of working closely with the Practice Partner.

- What did you learn from the student and nurse evaluations?
  ◦ Student change in attitude toward clinical
  ◦ Student change in evaluation of faculty role
  ◦ Staff nurse perception of …..
Recommendations /Outcomes of the Project

- How did this partnership benefit the student and clinical nurse learning?
  - Enhanced desire to choose urban placement for clinical experience
  - Student willingness to accommodate flexible time obligations for learning experiences

- Is the project scalable and replicable?
  - Within limitations of nurse–patient ratio, i.e. 6:1 vs 8:1
  - Potential for increased student–faculty ratio within the DEUs. R/T addition of CI from the practice environment.
What would you recommend for others who would like to implement a project?

- Write a clear proposal and read it.
- Insure administrative “cost” support.
- Clarify supports before you promise them.
- Allow time for development of the training programs but don’t over do it!
- Be tolerant of imperfections. (CI selection, practice schedules, academic–practice standards)
- Be flexible. Adaptation with a smile.
Next steps

New Components
- Addition of pediatric unit as DEU unit

New Relationships
- Establishment of a Sustainable academic–practice partnership
- Critical Care Course/Internship/Elective
- Curriculum change to establish terminal clinical residency
Questions

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