

IMPACT OF ATTENDING A
REGIONAL NURSING
CONFERENCE ON MASTER
OF SCIENCE STUDENTS
EMPLOYED AT A MAGNET
DESIGNATED HOSPITAL.

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Background and significance



- The association between improved clinical outcomes and health work environments has been widely reported (IOM, 2010; Friese, et al., 2015).

Background and significance

- Educational support for nurses is important in creating positive environments which recruit and retain professionals.



Background and significance



- Further, interprofessional relationships are linked to higher levels of quality care and evidence-based practice (EBP) implementation (Wilson, et al., 2015; Kramer, 2004).

Background and significance



<https://whitman.syr.edu/programs-and-academics/academics/eee/research/index.aspx>

- Meaningful engagement of front-line nurses with research and EBP is an essential component of Magnet designation.

Background and significance



- Magnet designated facilities understand the importance of peer-review and EBP competencies in the clinical setting in fostering healthy work practices (Friese, et al., 2015; Kramer, 2004).

Background and significance

Developing research utilization skills underpins EBP use; however, the limited uptake of research skills continues to be a universal problem worldwide (Usta, et al., 2016; Heydari & Zeydi, 2014).



Objectives

1. Increase awareness of attendance at regional nursing society conferences as an educational strategy to increase nurse research utilization.

Objectives

2. Discuss benefits to acute care facilities and Magnet hospitals of front-line nurse engagement in research conference participants.

Purpose

The purpose of this project is to describe the impact of exposure to a regional nursing research conference to develop research interest in a small group of masters in nursing students.



Research question

What are the challenges and benefits for master in science nursing student engagement in regional nursing research conferences?

Method

A comparative, descriptive case study approach was used.

- Evaluative feedback from two front-line line registered nurses enrolled in a master's in nursing program after attending a regional research society conference was documented.

Method

- Observations post-conference were compared to nursing studies reporting barriers to nurse research utilization to answer the question “how does participation in a regional nursing research society conference impact nurse perception of EBP/research involvement?”

Method

- Comments from a single post-conference meeting were recorded in response to “overall benefits, observations, relationship to Magnet facility employment and impact on professional practice?”

Data and analysis

Responses were recorded verbatim from the two graduate students attending the conference.

Data and analysis

100% of the 12 evaluative comments were categorized as positively impacting perception of intended EBP/research involvement.

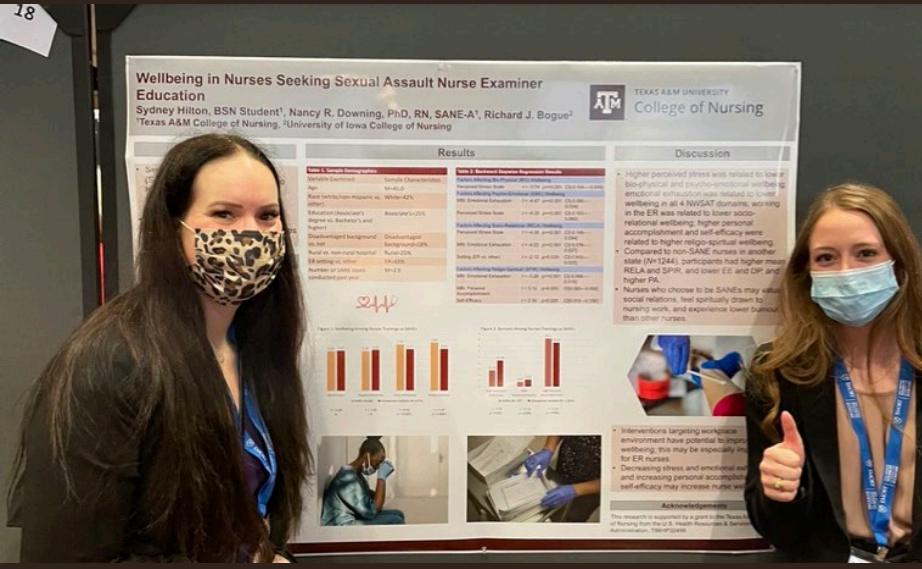
Data and analysis

Examples of benefits of conference attendance include “networking with other nursing professionals”; “exposure to nursing research process and the research group itself”; “the opportunity to be involved in research by so many different routes and how many ways in which nursing research can be applied”; “being able to talk to other nurses engaged in research from the BSN to PhD and DNP levels”.



Conclusion

Exposure to nursing research through regional conferences may positively increase nurse perceptions of and willingness to engage in EBP and the research process and should be further explored as a feasible avenue to increasing nurse engagement with EBP and research.





Clinical implications

Challenges include leadership and financial support for participation in research conferences, as they may be an underutilized resource for sparking frontline interest in research utilization and EBP uptake.

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