

A “Capitol Hill” Immersion Experience: Boots on the Ground

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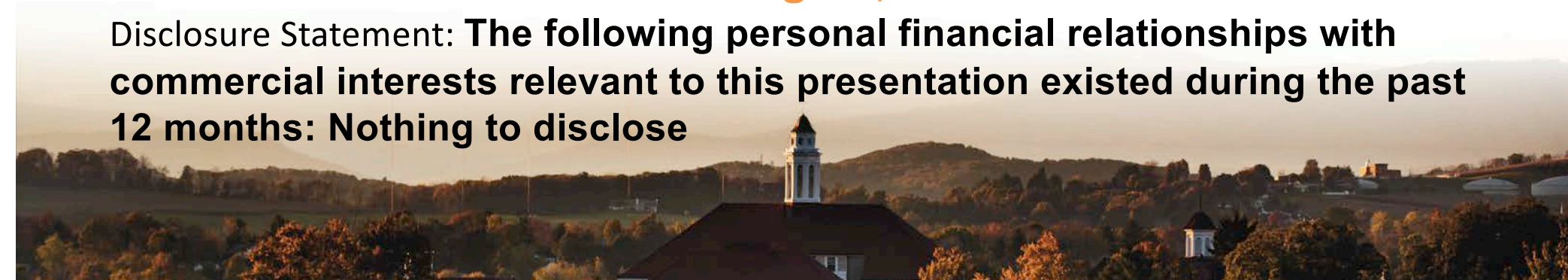
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Objectives

Objective #1:

Describe the planning, implementation, and evaluation of a Health Policy Institute (HPI) in Washington DC.

Objective #2:

List potential assignments, projects, and activities of the Health Policy Institute

Objective #3:

Identify appropriate data collection methods and evaluation measures of a Health Policy Institute



Health Policy Institute (HPI) goals:

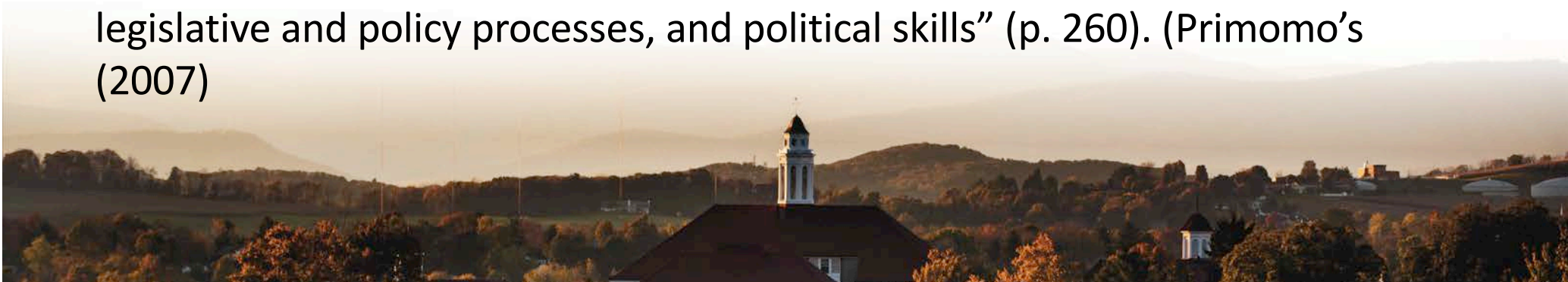
- Strengthen Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) student's political astuteness
- Meet AACN *DNP Essentials*.

HPI key elements:

- Interprofessional experiential learning immersion on Capitol Hill
- DNP students paired with federal policymakers

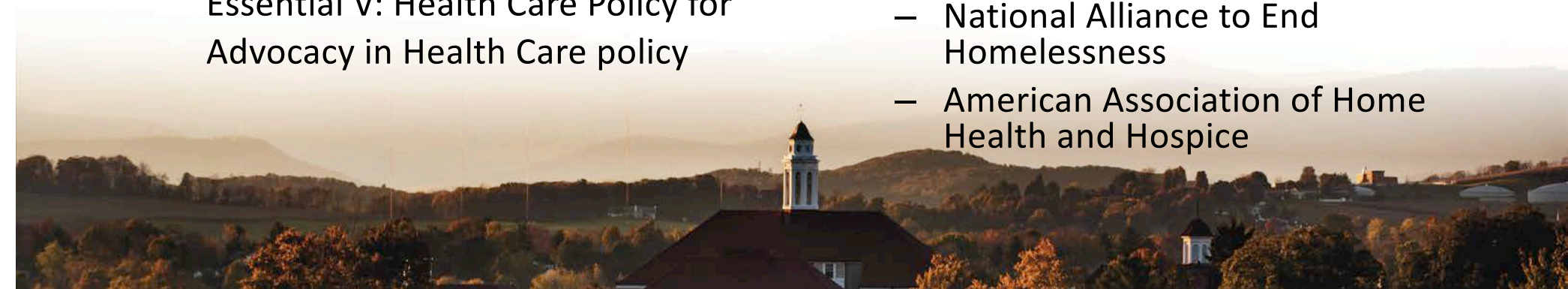
Purpose of study: To determine whether the HPI improved DNP student political astuteness.

Political astuteness defined: an “awareness and understanding of legislative and policy processes, and political skills” (p. 260). (Primomo's (2007)



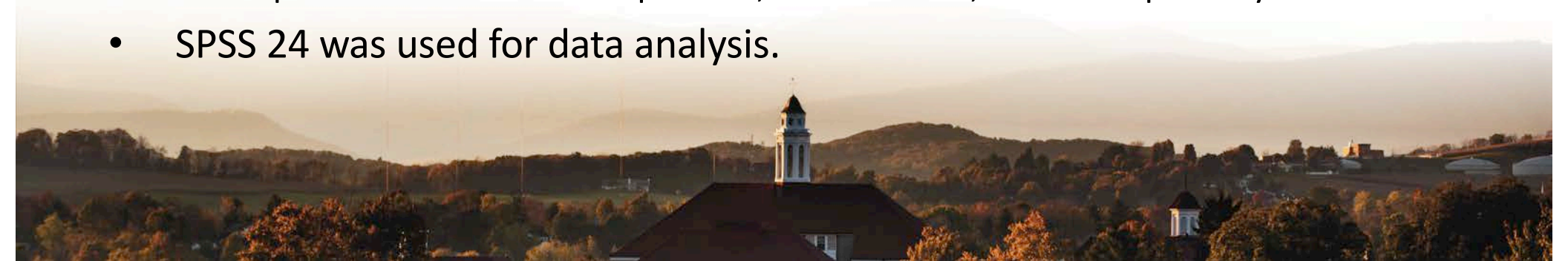
Health Policy Institute: Experiential Learning

- **Objectives of the HPI-** adapted from the subobjectives of *DNP Essential V: Health Care Policy for Advocacy in Health Care*
- **Student experiences include:**
 - Living and working on Capitol Hill for one intensive week
 - Working with an assigned mentor at the federal policymaking level
 - Achieving competency in DNP Essential V: Health Care Policy for Advocacy in Health Care policy
- **Assignments include:**
 - Agency Focused Projects
 - Reflective Journals
 - Self -Assessment of DNP Essentials
- **Sample agencies and offices:**
 - Senator Kaine
 - Congresswoman Barbara Comstock
 - American Nurses Association
 - American Association of Colleges of Nursing
 - Institute for Public Health Innovation
 - National Alliance to End Homelessness
 - American Association of Home Health and Hospice



Methods

- Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval and consents
- Online Qualtrics© survey
- Adapted version of Clark's (1984) Political Astuteness Inventory (PAI)
 - 40-item inventory that assesses political understanding, general knowledge, and participation in the legislative process and movement on four categories:
 - 1) completely politically unaware,
 - 2) slightly political aware,
 - 3) a beginning political awareness, and
 - 4) politically astute.
- Additional scale was added to the pretest/posttest survey
 - self-rating of the eight (8) health policy subobjectives from DNP Essential V
 - 3- point Likert scale of “Exposure”, “Immersion”, and “Competency”
- SPSS 24 was used for data analysis.



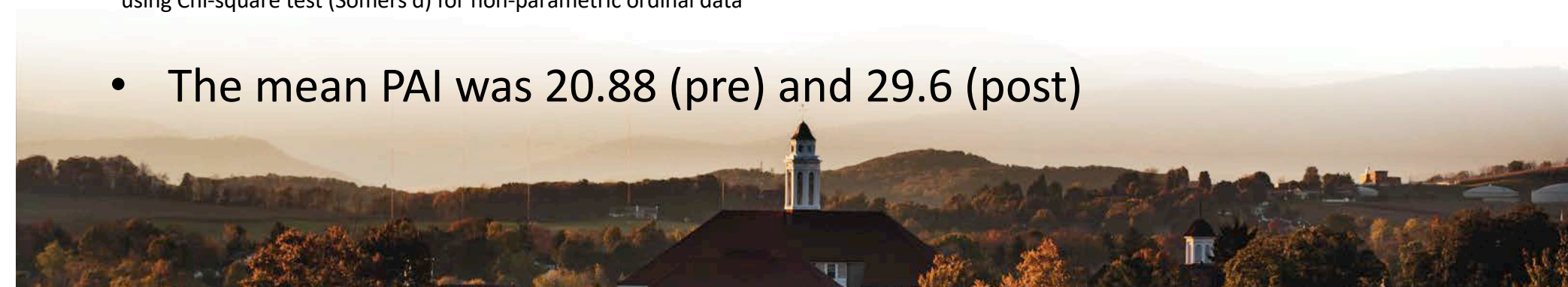
Results

Crosstabulation for DNP Essential V: Health Policy Subobjectives Pre/Post (n = 12)

	Pretest			Posttest			P value*
Sub- Objective	Exposure	Immersion	Competency	Exposure	Immersion	Competency	
1	7	4	1	1	2	9	0.025
2	4	7	1	0	3	9	0.18
3	5	3	2	0	2	8	0.068
4	5	4	3	0	1	11	0.54
5	5	4	3	0	3	9	0.14
6	4	4	3	0	2	9	0.70
7	6	3	0	0	1	8	0.28
8	7	4	1	0	3	9	0.025

*using Chi-square test (Somers'd) for non-parametric ordinal data

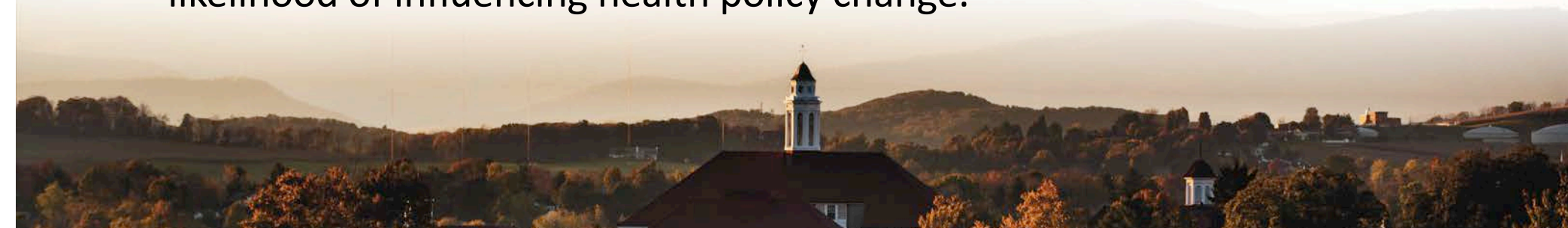
- The mean PAI was 20.88 (pre) and 29.6 (post)



Discussion/Conclusion

Implications

- The Health Policy Institute experience significantly enhanced doctoral nursing students' awareness and understanding of political skills and the legislative process
- Students reported transformative activities and events.
- Health care professionals often lack the knowledge, experience, and /or underestimate their ability to educate legislators on the value of healthcare, health care professionals, and healthcare-based need for policy change.
- This health policy immersion experience, participating directly with policymakers on Capitol Hill, enhanced graduate DNP nursing students' political astuteness and met health policy related *DNP Essentials*.
- Implementing experiential learning opportunities to improve political astuteness, such as the HPI, may prove to advance DNP graduates' likelihood of influencing health policy change.



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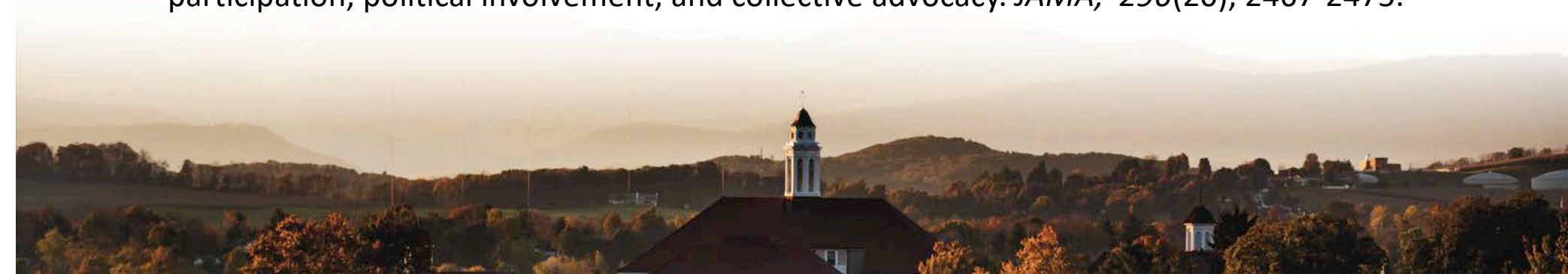
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