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# **DNP Leadership in Education: DNP Practice Immersion Experiences and the Benefits to MSN Programs and Nursing Education**

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### Content

- Faculty Shortage
- DNP Practice Immersion
- DNP Students and Benefits to MSN Programs
- Examples from the University of Miami
- Benefits to the MSN Programs
- Benefits to the MSN Students
- Benefits to the DNP Students
- Overall Effects
- Outcomes
- Conclusions



## Faculty Shortage and DNP Programs

- The faculty shortage in nursing education is well documented.
- We have discovered an unanticipated benefit with our post master's DNP program.
- Most of our DNP students are experienced nurses and indicate an interest in teaching at least part time.
- DNP graduates uniquely equipped to lead technology initiatives and clinical innovation in nursing education.



### DNP Practice Immersion Course

Generally, we tailor the DNP practice immersion experiences to the individual student and encourage they have several experiences to reflect the diverse roles of nurses in the nursing discipline and health care.



# Examples from the University of Miami



### DNP Practice Immersion Experiences

They have assisted community partners with:

- Development of a palliative care unit
- Grants for clinical education programs
- Nursing self governance initiatives
- Simulation education for paramedics
- Critical thinking exercises for medical students
- Diabetic teaching community outreach
- Teaching clinical content to nursing students
- Clinical research activities
- Modeling the role of the NP in hospitalist experiences



## **DNP Practice Immersion Experience with MSN Advanced Health Assessment Course**

DNP Students:

- Deliver content in their area of expertise
- Demonstrate and assist students master exam techniques
- Help with skill evaluation



## DNP Practice Immersion Experience in APN of the Adult II Course

1. DNP students conduct clinical seminars for their assigned MSN students
  - Guide the seminar discussion
  - Provide assistance to MSN students in the development of case presentations and with peer chart review



## DNP Practice Immersion Experience in APN of the Adult II Course

2. DNP students assist with monitoring clinical experiences for their assigned MSN students
  - Monitor MSN student clinical logs in the Typhon tracking system
  - Give MSN students feedback on their logs and documentation
  - Brief written report on student's progress to course coordinator biweekly which is shared with MSN student.



## DNP Practice Immersion Experience in APN of the Adult II Course

3. DNP students assist with evaluating clinical experiences for their assigned MSN students
  - Give MSN students feedback on their logs and documentation
  - Provide a brief written report on student's progress to course coordinator biweekly which is shared with MSN student.



## DNP Practice Immersion Experience in APN of the Adult II Course

4. DNP students share their expertise in a formal setting
  - Present a one hour class lecture in their area of expertise
  - Develop 10-15 questions suitable for course exams with faculty guidance

## DNP Practice Immersion Experience in FNP Integration Course

- Areas of DNP clinical practice included multiple specialties such as Adult Internal Medicine to Oncology
- Shared their specialty clinical knowledge and led discussions to facilitate critical thinking skills critical for patient management.



## DNP Practice Immersion Experience in FNP Integration Course

- Provided real world perspective on issues in advanced practice nursing that are essential to prepare novice nurse practitioners for board examination and initial licensure.
- The FNP students engaged in lively dialogue and were provided with insight and opportunity for further inquiry. FNP students were able to benefit from the experience by gaining valuable clinical practice information from experienced nurse practitioners.



## **DNP Practice Immersion Experience in Nurse Anesthesia**

DNP students give lectures to our nurse anesthesia students and assist with our nurse anesthesia simulation teaching (utilizing knowledge from the DNP technology course).

## **DNP Practice Immersion Experience Online Course Participation**

DNP students have also assisted with teaching online portion of courses, provided another perspective in the MSN student – faculty dialogue.

## DNP Practice Immersion Experience Benefits to MSN Program

- New avenue/network for community clinical sites and mentorship for our NP and undergrad students.
- Assist with MSN course development. One of our DNP students, a gerontology NP helped developed a Geriatrics course for our MSN curriculum





## DNP Practice Immersion Experience Benefits to MSN Students

- The FNP-DNP interaction also provides exposure to the DNP role
- Resulted in several students making application and entering in a subsequent cohort of DNP students.
- Role-modeling and socialization to the nursing discipline that the DNP students were able to provide to the students at the MSN academic level.



## DNP Practice Immersion Experience Benefits to DNP Students

- DNP students had a positive response to the experiences.
- Their involvement in evaluating and teaching MSN students provided them insight into the evolution process necessary for advanced practice nurses.
- DNP students increased their understanding of role transition from clinical expert to doctorally prepared nurse.
- The immersion experience gave the DNP students a unique opportunity to gain clinical practice time, while also socializing them to the academic environment.



### Overall Effects

- DNP students have a transformative effect on the MSN students they come in contact with.
- DNP students:
  - ✓ model expert nursing practice,
  - ✓ convey understanding of the nursing discipline
  - ✓ are persuasive about the value of doctoral prepared nurses
  - ✓ serve as effective recruiters for the program
- MSN students:
  - ✓ are socialized into the full potential for the nursing discipline
  - ✓ are energized to pursue doctoral education



## Outcomes of UM Experience

- The involvement of the DNP students in MSN education was well-received and both groups seemed to benefit from the experience.
- We continue to identify opportunities for involving DNP students in our MSN programs.
- We will continue to refine these opportunities based on both MSN and DNP student course evaluations and comments provided during and at the end of courses.

### Conclusions

- These DNP/MSN student collaborations generate unparalleled opportunities for nurses to learn and dialogue
- This education initiative maximizes scarce faculty resources.
- Increases understanding of nursing practice and the structure of our discipline for MSN students in a tangible way beyond what MSN students learn from a reading or class discussion.
- We believe this is a dynamic educational model and represents the future for nursing education.
- As a direct result, we are in the process of hiring our third DNP graduate.
- Faculty who are our DNP graduates have expanded the use of technology by our faculty, online course development

