

DEVELOPING A DEDICATED EDUCATION UNIT IN THE WOMEN'S CARE CENTER OF A RURAL, MIDWEST HOSPITAL

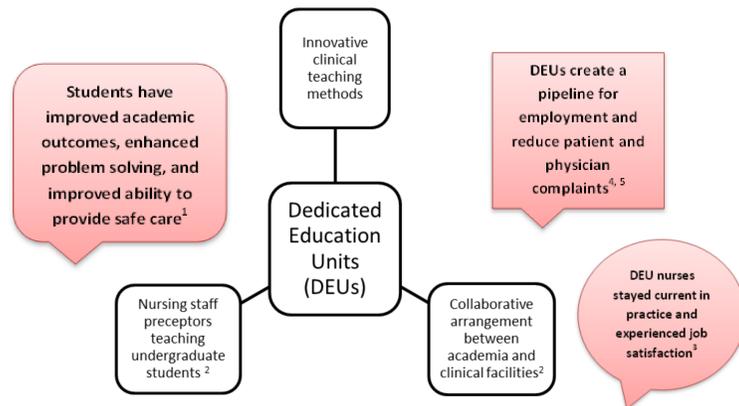
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HLGU - HRH
Partnering Together for
Nursing Education

BACKGROUND

- The nursing faculty shortage contributes to the lack of nurses as there are insufficient faculty to meet nursing program enrollment demands.⁶
- In northeast Missouri, Hannibal-LaGrange University (HLGU) has experienced a lack of qualified nurses with advanced degrees pursuing roles in nursing education, making it difficult to find clinical faculty.
- With increased nursing program admissions over the past decade, and decreased clinical faculty, HLGU has relied on the local hospital, Hannibal Regional Hospital (HRH), to fill vacancies by supplying additional instructors to teach in the clinical setting, at a cost.
- Trialing a Dedicated Education Unit (DEU) would provide an opportunity to educate an increased number of students as compared to traditional clinical teaching strategies.

LITERATURE REVIEW



PURPOSE STATEMENT

Determine if providing clinical on a DEU supports clinical learning, satisfaction with the clinical environment, and student-staff relationships. Determine a cost-benefit analysis of utilizing the DEU.

OBJECTIVES

- 50% of students agree or strongly agree that participating in the DEU supported clinical learning, satisfaction with the clinical environment, and student-staff relationships.
- The cost-benefit analysis of the DEU in collaboration between HLGU and HRH will be calculated.

METHODS

Setting

- Women's Care Unit (WCU) at HRH

Sample

- Convenience sample of 41 students enrolled in NUR 214 during spring 2017 at HLGU

Design

- Single group posttest descriptive design

Intervention

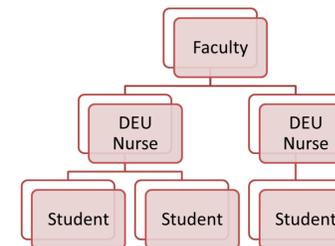
- A DEU was set up in the WCU at HRH
- Six RNs were selected to be DEU Nurses and were provided education and instruction
- One HLGU faculty member assisted in the DEU. Faculty DEU role included: making clinical assignments, ensuring student preparation, grading care plans, and performing student evaluations
- Students were paired with an RN and each student was the primary caretaker of one of the nurse's patients
- Each student was scheduled for two weeks in couplet care (mother-baby) and one week in labor and delivery

Data Collection

- Dedicated Education Unit Survey ($n = 32$) (Cronbach's alpha reliability $\alpha = .857$)

Analysis

- Cost-benefit analysis and descriptive statistics



RESULTS

Survey Item	Percent that Agreed or Strongly Agreed
In planning the shift, allowance is made for nursing students to gain the widest possible experience	84.4%
This was a happy unit for both patients and nurses	96.9%
I am generally able to ask as many questions as I want to	90.3%
My questions were usually answered satisfactorily	90.6%
The DEU Nurse attaches great importance to the learning needs of nursing students	81.3%
*The DEU Nurse here was too busy with more important matters to be able to spend time with me	18.8%
Nursing care is individualized for each patient on this unit	93.8%
The patients' needs really are given first priority	96.9%
This experience has made me more eager to become a Registered Nurse	90.6%

Note. * = Reverse Scoring



The Program Manager would like to thank Dr. Robin Harris (Committee Chair), Dr. Valerie Bader and Linda Dinges (Committee Members), Hannibal Regional Hospital (Clinical Site) and Hannibal-LaGrange University for their assistance with this project.

RESULTS

Cost	HRH Staff as HLGU Clinical Instructors	Adjunct Faculty as HLGU Instructors	DEU (HRH) Staff	DEU Cost Savings
HLGU	\$6,975.96	\$7,500	\$648	\$6852
HRH	\$5,475.96	\$0	\$0	\$5,475.96
TOTAL	\$12,451.92	\$7,500	\$648	\$6327.96-

- Objective 1 met:** The DEU supported clinical learning, satisfaction with the clinical environment, and student-staff relationships with 22 of the 23 Likert-style questions meeting the 50% objective.
- Clinical learning and satisfaction with the clinical environment ranged from 65.6%-96.9% satisfaction with one outlier of 35.5%. Student-staff relationships ranged from 56.3%-96.9%.
- Objective 2 met:** The cost-benefit analysis demonstrated that use of the DEU financially benefited both HLGU and HRH when compared to previous methods of providing clinical instructors on the WCU.

CONCLUSIONS

Benefits & Sustainability

- Findings suggest utilizing a DEU for nursing students' clinical experience supports an environment conducive to learning and placed student education as a priority.
- Using feedback from the students and DEU nursing staff, it was suggested to decrease the student to DEU nurse ratio to 1:1 in the future for an optimal experience.
- The cost-benefit analysis proved beneficial for both the academic institution and the clinical facility.

Limitations

- Students assigned to non-DEU nurses on occasion
- Limited time frame (8 weeks v. entire semester)
- Turnover of WCU leadership
- Need for additional DEU nurses on the WCU

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