Introduction

The focus on women’s health, including improved understanding of the unique health needs of women, has increased over the past few decades. Further, the demand for women’s providers is escalating with many new women enrollees seeking primary care services via the Affordable Care Act legislation.

Methods

• Conducted an internal and external needs assessment for the WHNP major within the MSN program. HRSA ANE grant application submitted early 2014.
• Through the Experienced Nurse Faculty Leadership Academy (ENFLA), sponsored by Sigma Theta Tau International/Chamberlain College of Nursing Center for Excellence in Nursing Education, the scholar participated in a triad team of Scholar/Mentor/Faculty. The 12-month leadership program helped to sharpen leadership and administrative skills.
• Created a business plan, to include internal and external marketing of the major.
• Led a Team-Based Project focused on initiating the WHNP major. Included multiple stakeholders, which will contribute to an improved overall product. Measuring impact and outcomes in ongoing fashion.

Results

Received HRSA grant approval: July 2015. Celebration event for stakeholders, Project coordinator hired.

Faculty voted approval of new courses x 4. First course (Gender and Women’s Health) completed August 2014. Next new course is slated for January 2015.

Students: Well over target with 20 enrolled in the Spring 2015 cohort, and 12 in the Fall 2015 cohort.

Evaluation plan includes successful graduation, board certification and Impact of Interprofessional Education events to occur in Year 2. Pre-test on IPE knowledge and comfort with interaction completed with first cohort, May 2015: 13/17 completed surveys. 2nd cohort: 12/12 completed surveys. Post graduation, a repeat survey is planned.

** HRSA ANE Refunded for year 2.

Key leadership strategies:
• Quarterly faculty meetings-check in,
• Creation of welcome video by faculty to new students.
• PI has observed and participated in Physician Assistant teaching activities in order to foster the relationship between schools and plan future IPE events.

Conclusions

This was a successful and an ideal leadership project for an experienced faculty member/leader candidate. It required many skills including:
• Vision for the WHNP role (within the school and within the profession)
• Organizational skills
• Relationship building, networking with administrators, preceptors, and students
• Marketing and economic planning
• Curriculum design

Program outcomes will be determined in year 2 and 3.

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Purpose

To develop and initiate a women’s health nurse practitioner (WHNP) major within the MSN program at Duke University School of Nursing.

This requires leadership and organizational skills on many levels as well as curriculum design and economic planning.

The ultimate goal is a sustainable program.

References


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