Implementation of a Community Partnership Between a Technical School and a Four-Year University With the Intent to Educate and Train High School Students on the Role of a Standardized Patient

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Introduction and background
- Nursing simulation and the use of standardized patients has been an innovative pedagogy that has demonstrated positive outcomes in nursing students, both undergraduate and graduate.
- Over time there has been a constant decline of clinical sites for nursing students to complete competencies required for graduation. Hence, nursing simulation has proven to be a valuable asset to nursing education.
- The development and implementation of partnerships as well as the proper education of standardized patients are critical for pediatric nurse practitioner students’ success.

Purpose
- The purpose of this project is to implement a community partnership between a secondary technical school and a university in New Jersey. The intent was to develop a sustainable partnership and to educate high school students in the role of a standardized patient.

Methods
- **Design:** A descriptive quantitative design using a Plan Do Study Act framework was used. A program evaluation tool was developed to gather data from high school students at a technical school regarding values, attitudes and interest in becoming a standardized patient after an educational presentation is implemented.

Results
**Educational Presentation and survey**
Presentation was implemented to participants who had signed consent forms from parents and assent form. 2 participants were identified making an n=2. Program evaluation tool assessed attitudes and interest in becoming a standardized patient.

Main themes
- The presentation content was easy to follow.
- Participants felt comfortable asking the presenter questions.
- There is interest in becoming a standardized patient with Rutgers University in the future.

Setting
- The setting for this project was via “Zoom” virtual platform.

Sample
Adolescent students from a secondary technical school in Newark, New Jersey. Inclusion criteria will include male, female, and/or transgender students between the ages of 14-17 years of age who attend the specified secondary technical school.

Development and Survey
- An educational presentation was developed with the intent to educate participants to the role of being a pediatric standardized patient.
- Role definition and requirements of participants was explained in the presentation.
- A program evaluation form was used to assess attitudes and interest regarding the role of the standardized patient.

Community Partnership
- Met with stakeholders in December 2019 to solidify partnership.
- Partnership approved by Board of Education in August 2020.
- Institutional Review board approved doctoral project with modifications in March 2021.
- Educational presentation was developed and program evaluation form was used to assess attitudes and interest regarding the role of the standardized patient.

Q2: The presentation was clear and easy to follow.

Q4: I felt comfortable asking the principal investigator questions.

Q5: I am interested in becoming a standardized patient with Rutgers University in the future.

Discussion
- The community partnership created with this doctoral project laid the foundation for a sustainable relationship between a secondary school and a four-year university.
- This partnership will help enhance clinical simulation opportunities for pediatric nurse practitioner students as well as provide opportunities for the students at the technical high school to learn about the health care programs at such university.

Implications for future practice
- Project can be used a legacy project and serve as a foundation for future projects to develop and continue.
- Information from this project will be disseminated during final presentation day at a four-year university in Newark, New Jersey.
- DNP student will submit abstract of work to scholarly journals for potential publishing.

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References