SPARKING TIMELY COMMUNICATION FOR LEARNING INNOVATION IN ONLINE DOCTORAL NURSING STUDENTS

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INTRODUCTION

- Growth of online graduate nursing programs
  - Flexibility – family, work, school
- About our population – Doctor of Nursing Practice students
  - Post-Master’s; BSN to DNP
  - 2 entries/year; full-time or part-time enrollment
  - Accelerated, writing intensive
  - Clinical setting in their geographic location
  - Required 2-day on-ground residency at Chatham during program
  - Year-round courses: Three 15-week semesters/year
ONLINE STUDENTS & COMMUNICATION

- Autonomous Learners
  - Challenges in online formats

- Communication
  - Timeliness
  - Quality
  - Sensitive
EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE CHANGE PROJECTS

- Identify clinical problem, review research studies for evidence of best intervention
- Link evidence to action
- Design project, obtain various approvals
- Implement the project

- Various issues develop; Geographically remote location
FACULTY-STUDENT INTERACTIONS

- Typical – online discussion forums, email
- Standard Learning Management system instruction in course shells
  - Brightspace (D2L), Moodle
  - Narrated PowerPoint
  - Panopto, VoiceThread
- Phone Conferences
- Person-to-person during Residency
- Video - Zoom, Teams, Skype
CUSTOMIZED FACULTY-STUDENT TELECOMMUNICATION

- Conference Call  (20 – 30 minutes)
  - Direct dialogue between faculty member and student
  - Socratic questions
  - Critical thinking and perspectives
  - Applications
  - Timeliness
  - Efficiency
PANDEMIC CRISES – COVID-19

- Spring 2020 – mid-March panic
- Clinical sites such as hospitals in NYC
- Community sites such as New Orleans, Orlando
- Ability to progress with projects
- Ability to obtain practice experience hours for their course
- New learning opportunity & support in Discussion Forums
DISCUSSION FORUM EXAMPLES

- Share and reflect current clinical experiences during pandemic
- Connect to current theory and implications on project design
- Consideration of virtual options for clinical meetings
RESPONSES

- Peer support
- End of course evaluations
  - Acknowledged the benefit of this extra opportunity during a challenging time personally and professionally
  - Appreciated ability to add clinical hours to their Practice Experience logs in a new way
Obstacles and communication crises issues in your work setting?