E3-3: The Effect of ADN-BSN Partnerships for RN Mobility Enrollment and Graduation Rates

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Introduction: The purpose of this project was to increase enrollment in the BSN program by establishing partnerships with associate degree (ADN) programs. Two federal grants provided funding to increase RN to BSN enrollment, the first for promoting partnerships and transitioning
the courses to online delivery. The RN Mobility Coordinator initiated contact with directors of the ADN program directors to negotiate partnership agreements. Upon completion, a partnership-signing ceremony was held. Partnership activities include biannual meetings to discuss changes within the organizations, issues of concern to the ADN students, suggestions for improvement of the RN to BSN track and grant activities. Partners distribute information about the program and refer interested students.

**Method(s):** The second project was to increasing diversity in the nursing workforce of Alabama by increasing the numbers of educationally and economically disadvantages students. Systematized recruitment activities, personalized advising, and faculty mentoring has increased enrollment. Mentoring of ADN students combined with monthly stipends enhance success. The UA Mentoring and Recruitment Coordinator maintains mentoring and advising relationships with RN students until UA general education requirements are met. Upon enrollment in nursing courses, students are enrolled in course sections with smaller student to faculty ratios to enhance availability of faculty assistance to help disadvantaged students succeed. Those students have the opportunity to apply for grant-funded scholarships.

**Results:** The success of the partnerships and collaborative grant activities is evident in the increase in enrollment from 4 in 2003 to 47 in fall 2008 (1075% increase) and an increase in graduations from 2 in summer 2004 to 37 in summer 2009 (1750%). A total of 208 ADN and RN to BSN students have received direct financial assistance from the NWD grant.

**Discussion & Conclusions:** We recommend that others adopt the premise to collaborate rather than compete, to initiate developing partnerships, and to be persistent in establishing and meeting needs of partners.

**Abstract History:**
This abstract has not been presented or accepted for presentation in whole or in part at the SNRS or other scientific meeting.

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