



Practice/Academic Partnership During the COVID-19 Crisis Video Transcript ©2020 National Council of State Boards of Nursing, Inc.

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Presenters

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[music] - [Maryann] Since COVID-19 first appeared in the United States in January, it has spread to every corner of the country, killing tens of thousands of people.

Now, more than ever, our nation needs a robust nursing workforce to powerfully combat this pandemic. But in the face of a novel virus about which little is known, and many hospitals have opted to close their doors to nursing students, placing clinical experiences and ultimately, nurse licensure out of reach for them.

To benefit both students and hospitals during this crisis, NCSBN has joined with other national nursing organizations to promote a Practice/Academic Partnership model. Under this model, students are hired by the hospital and considered paid employees, while at the same time, they earn clinical credit through their educational institution with faculty to oversee and evaluate their skills.

These partnerships make it possible for student nurses to learn first-hand lessons about emergency management, public health and interdisciplinary teams, preparing the next generation of nurses in ways that were never possible before. At the same time, our healthcare workers on the front lines receive valuable, skilled support.

The full details of the partnership model can be found in the policy brief available on NCSBN's website.

[music] - [Julie] The Academic/Practice Partnership has been about creating an opportunity to build on a foundation of collaboration.

When we were experiencing the challenges related to COVID-19 in clinical placements for students, we came together with our Academic Medical Center, the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics and our Kirkwood Community College, as well as the University of Iowa to identify what opportunities we had to continue clinical placements.

We quickly decided that the priority should be with the students who were graduating in May. The University of Iowa Hospital committed to making sure that students who were placed there would actually complete their internship hours. [music] - [Kathy] What we did at Kirkwood, we have been really big on promoting Academic/Practice Partnerships because we are focused on the continuation of clinical within the pandemic crisis.

We did decrease our clinical hours to 75% of usual, but we've been focused on doing clinical hours without substitution of non-high fidelity simulation. We were allowed to have 70 of our students who were in their final semester preceptorship hours, and they will be completed by mid-June, so they will be graduating with clinical experience.

We've been also expanding our clinic Academic/Practice Partnerships to other hospitals, partner hospitals across the State of Iowa. We are very interested in helping other programs, other colleges expand their clinical opportunities for their students. And we are starting to work with the Iowa Organization of Nurse Leaders and the Vice President of the Iowa Hospital Association, Vice President for Nursing.

Allison Baker shares, "This has been a wonderful opportunity for the students to enhance skills they have already obtained. Our students embraced this opportunity to help meet the needs of our community during this unprecedented time. I could not be more proud of them." Nursing students, while still obtaining knowledge and skills, are already members of the healthcare team.

And by investing in our nursing students, the entire nursing community is stronger. These students are tomorrow's storytellers, policymakers, and advocates. As a nursing community, we need to recognize the contribution that they are already making, and through the Academic and Partnership model, we can honor the talented nurses that are supervising them while simultaneously recognizing the energy, innovation, and creativity students bring to the nursing profession.

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