

Implementation of Inter-Professional Education at a Small Rural University

Crytzer, M.L., Martin-Elkins, C.L., Frndak, D.C., Robare, J.F. and Siple, B.J.
Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania--College of Health, Environment, and Science

INTRODUCTION

Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania (SRU) is part of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) which includes 14 universities across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

SRU is behind in the critical area of Inter-Professional Education (IPE). The IPE team has developed a vision and a plan for developing IPE at SRU that will go beyond the minimum accreditation requirements and has the potential to make the university a leader in this aspect of health care education.

VISION

An Inter-Professional Education Collaborative which expands knowledge through an integrated program designed to train developing health care professionals as effective team members in order to increase quality and efficiency of care, improve patient outcomes and satisfaction and foster leadership. This will include a facility that will serve as centralized location for training of faculty, students and clinicians including a student-run pro-bono clinic.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Faculty Engagement

To engage faculty members from all disciplines to move outside of their respective silos and embrace the philosophies and importance of inter-professional education for all health care professionals.

Faculty Training

To provide faculty training so faculty will more effectively utilize appropriate inter-professional strategies in the classroom and beyond.

Curricular Development/Implementation

Collaborative curricular requirements will be developed across programs through a three-phase project that will progress over a 3-year time frame:

Phase 1--online IP content in designated programs/courses*

Phase II--integrated learning activities including case studies/simulations

Phase III--real-world clinical experiences with patients/caregivers in clinical settings or on campus

*Note: The first year, online courses will be administered to a select group of multi-disciplinary students as a pilot.

Facility

To develop a dedicated facility for students, faculty and local clinicians to train for inter-professional instruction/practice.

- Inter-professional laboratory experiences.
- Pro-bono clinics.
- Workshops in inter-professional development for clinicians in the region, faculty and students from other PASSHE health care programs.

Local Partners

To develop partnerships with local clinicians and health care facilities to maximize student opportunities inter-professional practice and to provide training opportunities to local health facility professionals.

Technology Needs

- Full utilization of current learning management system capabilities.
- Simulation Center.
- Video conferencing.

Funding

Steering committee will apply for external grant monies in addition to utilizing available SRU funds for technology needs, training and IPE activities.

PROGRESS

- Developed IPE Strategic Plan (May 2016).
- Sought and obtained initial support of Dean and Provost (June & July 2016).
- Presented IPE workshop to faculty during Professional Development Day at SRU (October 2016).
- Scheduled to present overview to college faculty at College of Health, Environment and Science (CHES) meeting (November 2016).



CHALLENGES

- Culture of non-collaboration between programs.
- Training in IPE methods currently not available on-site.
- Limited value to faculty in terms of tenure/promotion.
- No facility for IPE activities.
- Small, rural university with limited access to medical facilities.
- Deficiency in required technology.