Quid Pro Quo: An Innovative Teaching Partnership to Combat the Nurse Anesthesia Faculty Shortage

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Background

The nursing school faculty shortage significantly impacts admission rates and instructional quality.

2023 — **1977** full-time faculty vacancies across **922** schools of nursing (AACN, 2023).

CHALLENGES FACED IN RECRUITING QUALIFIED FACULTY IN SPECIALTY AREAS INCLUDE:

- Competitive pay disparities
- Aging & retirement of experienced faculty
- Lack of qualified doctoral-prepared faculty applicants

(McPherson, 2019; Jarosinski et al., 2022).

To address these challenges, innovative approaches are needed to prepare well-trained healthcare professionals.

Collaborative nursing education faculty is scarce but represents a promising strategy.

NA	AGACNP
nurse anesthesia	adult-gerontology acute care nurse practitioner

This study explores the effects of such faculty collaborations on enhancing graduate nursing education and promoting clinical competence.

Methods

Faculty from the NA and AGACNP programs collaborated to teach graduate student nurses specialized clinical skills, leveraging their unique expertise.

Collaborative teaching sessions were structured to maximize faculty expertise and align with program goals

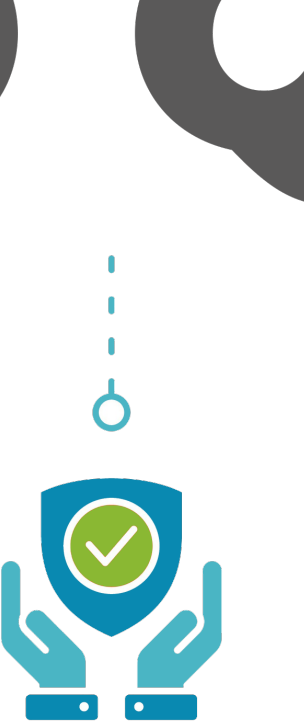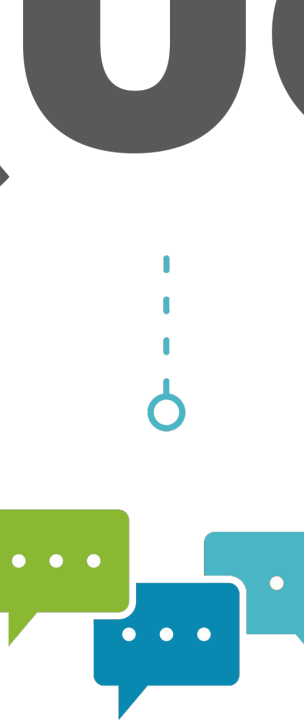|	
Ultrasound Training	NP faculty provided five 3-hour sessions covering ultrasound techniques, including E-FAST exams, cardiac imaging, and nerve block anatomy.
Airway Management	NA faculty trained NP students in airway techniques via prep materials, hands-on practice with manikins, & deliberate practice, to ensure skill competency.
Moderate Sedation	NA faculty created a comprehensive sedation module for NP students, aligning with ASA guidelines including an exam to assess knowledge.
Chest X-Ray Interpretation	Both faculties collaborated on a module for NA students to interpret CXRs, focusing on systematic analysis, pathology identification, & line placement.

QUID PRO QUO
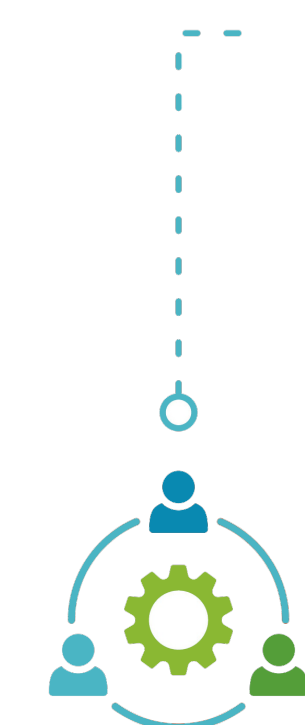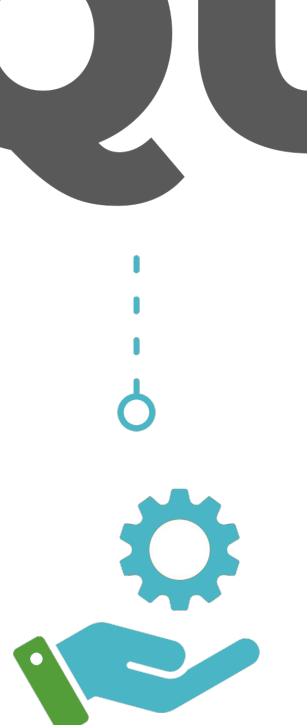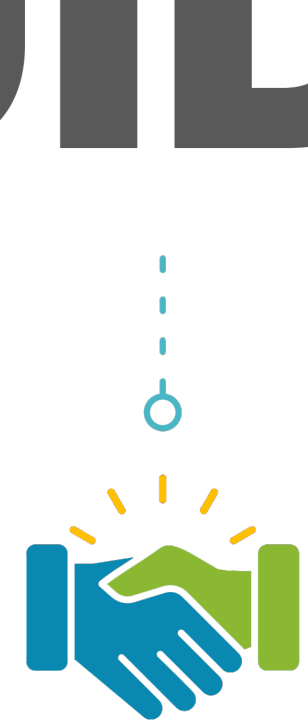
TEAMWORK   SUPPORT   PARTNERSHIP   CREATIVITY   SOLUTION   TRUST   COMMUNICATION   SUCCESS

Nurse Anesthesia
111 BSN-DNP, Master's and Post Master's Certificate Gerontology

Airway Management
Asynchronous learning module, in-person review, & discussion, skills demonstration, deliberate practice
Competencies
- Return demonstration
- 95% achieved competence, demonstrating safe skills

Moderate Sedation
Asynchronous learning module
Competencies
- Quiz
- 98% accuracy on quiz

Adult-Gerontology Acute Care NP
50 BSN-DNP NA students

Ultrasound
Asynchronous learning module, in-person review, & discussion, skills demonstration, deliberate practice
Competencies
- Return demonstration
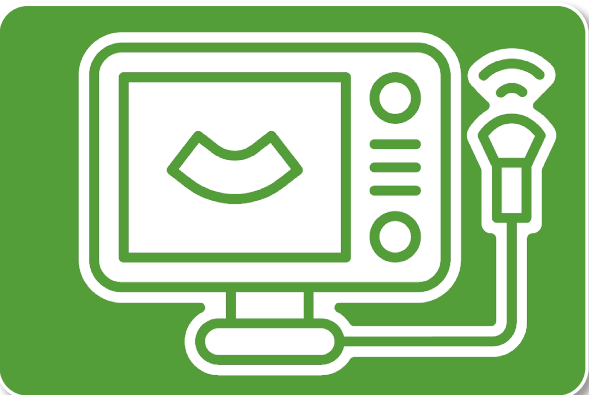- All students achieved competency with 75% demonstrating mastery

Chest X-Ray Interpretation
Asynchronous learning module
Competencies
- Quiz
- Meet module objectives
- 90% accuracy on quiz

Results

ULTRASOUND TRAINING
NA students gained competency in ultrasound-guided procedures, supported by live sessions and task trainers

AIRWAY MANAGEMENT
95% of NP students achieved competency, citing the value of hands-on practice and faculty "tips and tricks."

MODERATE SEDATION
NP students averaged 98% on the module exam, demonstrating comprehensive understanding.

CHEST X-RAY INTERPRETATION
NA students scored 90% on interpretation exams, achieving baseline competency. Students reported improved confidence, skill proficiency, and appreciation for cross-disciplinary collaboration.

Discussion

This initiative highlights the benefits of collaborative education in addressing nursing faculty shortages and enhancing graduate student learning.

KEY OUTCOMES INCLUDE

1. Leveraging faculty expertise to bridge gaps in specialized skills training.
2. Promoting interdisciplinary respect and preparation for collaborative healthcare teams.
3. Mitigating redundancy in resource creation and optimizing educational delivery.

Regular communication between faculty ensured that content remained clinically relevant and aligned with program needs.

The collaborative model fosters a culture of interprofessional learning, equipping students to deliver high-quality, patient-centered care.

Conclusion

Collaborative teaching between NA & AGACNP faculty is a solution to help address the nursing faculty shortage by optimizing resources & enhancing graduate nursing education.
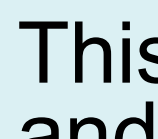
This model supports interdisciplinary learning and prepares students for the collaborative demands of modern healthcare.

Institutions with diverse specialties can adopt similar strategies to improve educational outcomes and foster interprofessional excellence.

Contact me!

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