

47th Global Nursing & Healthcare Conference

March 01-03, 2018 | London, UK

Partnering with faith-based organizations to provide international undergraduate nursing clinical experiences through mission trips

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The purpose of this presentation is to discuss how mission trips in international settings, with faith-based organizations, are used to help meet the clinical needs of undergraduate nursing programs. There is a constant struggle and competition to find clinical sites for undergraduate nursing students while also meeting the obligation to expose students to the concepts of diversity and inclusivity. Taking undergraduate nursing students on mission trips can provide a solution to this dilemma. The high-impact educational practice (HIEP) concepts of diversity and global learning were integrated into the experiential learning experience by introducing a study abroad component into the nursing curriculum. Our nursing school partnered with a church-based organization that provides medical, nursing, dental, health care and humanitarian aid to medically underserved communities all over the world. Two faculty and five senior nursing students traveled with a church group to a remote underserved area in Jacmel, Haiti. Students and faculty spent 7 days delivering health care to approximately 300 underserved patients. Partnering with a faith-based organization to provide the nursing care component met the clinical needs of the students, faculty, and the faith-based organization. This presentation focuses on the steps, processes, procedures, and the pros/cons of forming a collaborative relationship with a faith-based organization to provide (HIEP) and clinical opportunities for undergraduate nursing students.

Biography

Dr. Campbell-Law is a Professor, and Doctorate of Nursing Practice Program Coordinator at the University of St. Thomas, Peavy School of Nursing in Houston, Texas. She earned her Doctorate from Texas Woman's University, in Houston, Texas. She is an Adult/Psychiatric/Nurse Practitioner and assesses service members getting ready for deployment evaluating those returning from battle for any indication of traumatic brain injuries. Dr. Campbell-Law is well known for her work in the mentally ill arena and has a proven record of publications and presentations on the topic of depression and bipolar disorders.

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