COMMUNITY BASED HEALTH PROMOTION EXPERIENCES ACROSS THE LIFESPAN FOR NRS 110/210: Lane Community College

Netti Garner, RN, MSN, D. Min., Project Lead; Julia Munkvold, RN, MSN, Program Coordinator

The goal of the project was to explore the process of creating, implementing and evaluating the use of community agencies that offered health promotion activities as a learning opportunity for nursing students in the Health Promotion course. In addition, this activity was used in conjunction with a day in Simulation Lab as a method of controlling numbers of students an instructor was responsible for in the clinical setting.

The project included brainstorming appropriate agencies, making contacts, establishing relationships, exploring opportunities, collaborating on activities for students, creating a rotation schedule, creating a tool for students, facilitating reflection of the experience, creating an evaluation tool for the sites and collating the information.

Five sites were identified which included a prenatal clinic baby weight clinic, school-based clinics, wellness center that offered yoga for women and aquatic rehabilitation class and a child development center. A contact person was identified at each site for each activity and day of the student rotation. Instructions for students were developed, including site specific details and a concept-based learning activity.

Students independently engaged in the activity; occasionally two students attended a site at the same time. The following day, students attended a Simulation Lab experience. The Sim instructor used the beginning of the lab time to facilitate reflection on the students' health promotion experience.

The feedback from agencies, students and faculty were overwhelmingly positive. There is a large amount of up-front planning required to identify and organize the experience, yet once the term began, the plan unfolded with minimal rework.