Creating Symbiosis During the COVID-19 Pandemic Through Academic-Service Partnerships and Community Engagement

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Flagstaff, Arizona sits at the base of the San Francisco Peaks, on homelands sacred to Native Americans throughout the region. We honor their past, present, and future generations, who have lived here for millennia and will forever call this place home.
Objectives

01 Describe the multi-system collaborative approach taken to coordinate a rapid response academic team to assist with COVID-19 relief efforts at Gallup Indian Medical Center

02 Present the impact of the immersion experience on the professional identity and future practice of nurse practitioner students

03 Discuss future implications of academic-service partnerships as a mechanism to provide health profession education through a health equity lens
Purpose

• In response to a request for assistance with a COVID-19 relief project from a clinical community partner in a rural underserved area, a one-week service-learning immersion with six University of Arizona College of Nursing (UA CON) Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) students and two UA CON faculty was developed and piloted.
**TIMELINE**

- **December 6, 2020**
  - Initial contact with GIMC

- **December 3, 2020**
  - Message received from Native colleagues

- **December 11, 2020**
  - GIMC connected with Az AHEC and CAAHEC

- **January 4, 2021**
  - UA CON capability assessed with Dean Moore, CAAHEC, & AzAHEC

- **January 25, 2021**
  - Student recruitment initiated

- **January 28, 2021**
  - UA CON Faculty credentialing for GIMC started

- **February 1, 2021**
  - Final selection of students approved

- **February 3, 2021**
  - UA CON Faculty credentialing started
  - Student credentialing initiated

- **February 6, 2021**
  - Immersion Orientation meeting with students

- **February 8, 2021**
  - Travel to Gallup, NM

- **February 13, 2021**
  - Return from Gallup, NM

- **Now**
Gallup Service Unit

- User population of 41,887 which is 17% of the total NAIHS user population of 241,010
- Gallup Indian Medical Center is a 74-bed hospital facility
- GIMC received Level III Trauma Center designation in 2013; recertified in April 2017
- Receives approximately $3300/patient
Navajo Nation

Tribal enrollment: 322,000 (2010 census), ~50% live off NN
27,000 mi\(^2\) (size of West Virginia)
Electricity: ~25% of homes without electricity (15,000/55,000)
Water: 15-30% (?) homes do not have running water
Roads: Many unpaved (clay soil, difficult seasonal access)

(IHS, 2020; NNDIT, 2021; NTUA, 2020)
The Process of Cultural Competemility in the Delivery of Healthcare Services

Instructional design of the immersion included social determinants, historical trauma, acute and chronic illness, and emerging COVID-19 research were applied to the theory’s process of 1) Cultural awareness; 2) Cultural skill; 3) Cultural knowledge; 4) Cultural encounters; and 5) Cultural desire. (Campinha-Bacote, 2018)
Cultural orientation with the Office of Native Medicine in the Hogan on campus

Practiced strategies integrating cultural humility into clinical practice

Evening debriefings with case study presentations and discussion
UNM | GIMC (ft. UA)

Vaccine Collaboration
2,100+ Moderna and 1,000+ Pfizer Vaccinations Administered

Assessment

Screening

Physical Exam Techniques

Patient and Community Education
- Providing culturally relevant education on a novel vaccine
- Practice integrating knowledge of socio-ethnogeographic pathology unique to the area, based on presentation by hospital leadership.
- Demonstrated knowledge of community resources for plan and follow-up.
All In

Interprofessional collaboration

- Physicians, PAs, NPs, RNs, pharmacists, PTs, OTs collaborating with direct observation of systems leadership and processes.
- Rotations in the primary care and pediatric offices, and the emergency department
- Clinic work involved assessment and evaluation of vaccine candidates with high-risk co-morbidities
SERVICE
IT TOOK EVERYONE'S SUPPORT
Dinner and lecture from Dr. Joshuua Allison-Burbank about the impact of traditional healing and ceremony on neurohormone production and regulation
Major Accomplishments

• Alcohol Task Force - Na’nízhoozhí Center, Inc. (NCI) and the City of Gallup
• Integrating Behavioral Health Services into primary care
• Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) program development
• Zero Suicide Grant Initiative (ZSI)
• Palliative Care Team
• Non-cancer, chronic pain clinic
Clinical placement for students
-Enhanced research opportunity and EBP development
-Enhanced clinical exposure for faculty
-Increased educational capacity
-Recruitment opportunity

Guaranteed clinical placement and project site
-Opportunity to serve/learn in underserved urban and/or rural clinical settings
-Research opportunities
-Potential employment post-graduation

-Workforce assistance with quality improvement and research initiatives
-Preceptor/staff development and training
-Access to academic resources and expertise
-Workforce recruitment and retention
-Staffing assistance with faculty practice

-Shared resources
-Opportunity for integration of technology and innovation

Increased workforce capacity

Academic-Service Partnership Model
Ahéhee’

- People of Dinétah
- GI MC
- Dr. Kevin Gaines
- Myra Francisco
- Sheila Goldtooth
- Julie York
- Larry Lybert
- Mark Alford
- Arizona AHEC
- Central Arizona AHEC
- Dr. Lisa Kiser
- Dr. Tarnia Newton
- Dr. David Trinidad
- Dr. Shu-Fen Weng
- Dr. Allen Prettyman
- Dr. Renee Gregg
- Dean Ki Moore
- Sami Dalessio
- Lindsay DeWolfe
- Anne Fong-Jablonski
- Brooke Harper
- Stephanie Hallenbeck
- Alejandra Vasquez
- Pauline Vintapatr
- Katie Pon Rambo
- Pauline Vintapatr
References


