NEXus: Leading the Vision for Intraprofessional Education and Research Collaboration

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PURPOSE

The purpose of this Poster Symposium is to present NEXus as an example of creative collaboration that brings together DNP and PhD programs as a way for nurse scientists and practitioners to:

(a) bridge the paradigms of knowledge translation and knowledge generation;
(b) improve healthcare quality/safety; and
(c) promote excellent patient outcomes.

BACKGROUND

Building on strengths in advanced nursing education, research in diverse populations and targeted university support for transdisciplinary, use-inspired research, NEXus provides a mechanism for promoting academic and practice collaboration to meet the challenges of healthcare reform through education and research.

Growth of NEXus Viewed Over Time

Growth of NEXus viewed from a traditional to a contemporary progressive framework of digital thinking occurred in stages:

- **NEXus 1.0**: the preliminary development period
- **NEXus 2.0**: the newly emerging growth period
- **NEXus 3.0**: the future period projecting the transition to enhance faculty, student and health professional collaboration in research and education.

OBJECTIVES

1. To review the historical context and progressive impact of NEXus as an education/research collaborative on nursing education and practice.
2. To examine a framework for intraprofessional education and research collaboration.
To describe a novel approach using NEXus as a mechanism to enhance intraprofessional collaboration between PhD and DNP prepared faculty and students.

Knowledge from practice has gained some legitimacy:

“Graduates of both research- and practice-focused doctoral programs are prepared to generate new knowledge” (AACN, 2015, p.2)

National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculty (NONPF) NP Core Competencies (2011) include “leadership in the translation of new knowledge into practice” and “generation of knowledge from clinical practice”

However, there remains is a significant gap in research collaborations among PhD and DNP prepared nurses

NEXus provides a mechanism to promote collaboration between PhD and DNP prepared faculty and students.

Faculty Development:
Course topics include: advanced research methodologies, quality improvement, complexity science, statistics, measurement and population topics such as veteran health, palliative care, and tribal cultures.

Collaboration/Networking Opportunity:
NEXus courses afford an opportunity to network for DNP and PhD students and faculty

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Phases of Research/Practice Knowledge Generation
Exploration: Theory generated using conventional research methods.
Explication: Testing under ideal circumstances.
Engagement: Best evidence integrated with knowledge of policy, systems and patient populations to implement interventions.
Optimization: Outcome data used, in collaboration with interdisciplinary colleagues, to optimize interventions.

Key dynamic is permeability of boundaries to:
- Reduce role constraints
- Facilitate knowledge flow and collaborations

DNP and PhD graduates are prepared differently and each brings unique knowledge, skills, and perspectives that broaden the impact of nursing to improve health.

NEXus provides a novel opportunity to increase collaboration between DNP and PhD prepared faculty and students by increasing individual skillsets and fostering understanding of contributions of DNP and PhD prepared nurses to knowledge generation and translation to improve patient health.

Selected References
NEXus 3.0: Facilitating Innovative Academic Connections

Barbara K. Haas, PhD, RN, University of Texas at Tyler and David P. Hrabe, PhD, RN, NC-BC, The Ohio State University

To discuss innovative approaches to meet and exceed academic imperatives through creative collaboratives such as the Nurse Education Xchange (NEXus) 3.0

• NEXus 1.0 established in 2004 via FIPSE grant
• NEXus 2.0 expanded beyond western region and added gerontological content (Hartford NHCGNE).

Mentoring of students
• Serving on student’s dissertation committee
• Meeting at conferences
• Co-authoring and co-presenting posters
• Publication mentoring

Intercollegiate research and scholarship collaboration
• Faculty with common interests pursing research agenda
• Co-presenting at regional research conference
• Co-authoring publications and presentations

Expert consultation
• PhD program review
• Guest speakers for various events

FUTURE POSSIBILITIES

• Data sharing
• Student-to-student collaboration
• Multi-site research, publications, presentations
• PhD and DNP collaborations

IMPLICATIONS

Collaboratives such as NEXus have great potential to promote innovation beyond the classroom by connecting nursing students and faculty with a variety of perspectives, expertise and networks.