

Report on Communication Activities by the Texas Board of Nursing Consultants for Education

SUMMARY:

This report describes Texas Board of Nursing (Board or BON) nursing consultants for education participation in activities to promote communication with the Texas nursing education programs.

Concept Based Workshop

At the January 2013 Board meeting, Board members granted approval for six (6) pre-licensure nursing education programs to initiate and implement the Texas Concept Based Curriculum. The innovative pilot project, is a Nursing Innovative Grant Program (NIGP) administered by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB). Trinity Valley and five (5) other associate degree nursing education programs were approved to be exempt from submitting a major curriculum change proposal to the BON to initiate the Texas Concept Based curriculum. Over 75 faculty from twenty-eight (28) schools developed uniform syllabi for the curriculum, providing learning resource information for concept exemplars, examination questions, and other faculty resources.

On May 20, 2014, two (2) of the project directors of the Texas Concept Based Curriculum project, Dr. Helen Reid and Dr. Bonnie Higgins, presented a half-day workshop for faculty during which time lessons learned were shared with the workshop participants. Over one (100) faculty and program directors attended the workshop. A faculty panel shared the challenges and successes of implementing the Texas Concept Based Curriculum and answered audience questions. The panel members shared innovative teaching strategies as well as daily challenges in managing two curriculums simultaneously while teaching out the former curriculum. The panel of program dean/directors involved in the project discussed the lessons they learned, describing challenges and opportunities which faced the program implementation.

Self-Study Conference Calls

Rule 214.4(c)(2)(B) stipulates that the first-time a nursing program has a passing score of less than eighty (80) percent for first-time NCLEX-PN® candidates a Self-Study Report is to be written and submitted to Board staff by a specified deadline. In March and April of this year, the education consultants held one(1) hour conference calls with each of the thirty (30) pre-licensure professional nursing education programs who had a first-time examination pass rate below the benchmark of eighty (80) percent. This activity proved to be so beneficial for both programs and the education consultants, the same activity was conducted with the seven (7) vocational education nursing programs whose 2013 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate was below eighty (80) percent during the months of May and June. Program directors and faculty freely asked questions about the process and were enthusiastic in sharing their findings. Both program directors and faculty expressed appreciation for the time with the consultants. Upon receipt of the self-study reports, the Nursing Consultants for Education will read each self-study and respond to the individual program with a letter of acknowledgment and include any suggestions or comments specific to corrective actions as well as any requests for additional or clarifying information.

Nursing Education Department Newsletter

In June, the Consultants for Nursing Education launched its inaugural edition, electronic newsletter to all pre-licensure nursing education programs in Texas. The newsletter shared education, topics, and helpful hints pertinent to the operations of a nursing education program. The topics shared included the recent changes to Rule 215, Summer 2014 coming events, and a brief article on protecting individual identities. In response to rapid changes in nursing education in Texas, the Education Consultants plan to regularly send the electronic education newsletter to update program directors and faculty and maintain an open communication avenue between programs and the Education Consultants. Responses received from program directors were highly positive, thanking the Education Consultants for the information and encouraged regular issues.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

This report is for information only. No action is required.