



St. Catherine University

From the Selected Works of Jayne Sparks, MS, RN, CNE, CCM

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“Population Based Nursing Practice Experiences in RN to BS Education: An Evolving Model”

Jayne Sparks, *St. Catherine University*



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Population Based Nursing Practice Experiences in RN to BS Education: An Evolving Model

Lisa Marien, MSN, RN, PHN, CNE; Cynthia Nelson MSN, RN, PHN, CNP; Sonja Rivers MAN, PHN, RN; Jayne Sparks RN, MS, PHN, CCM; Karen Sund, MPH, RN, CNE
St. Catherine University, St. Paul, Minnesota

Introduction

The St. Catherine University mission is to educate students to become ethical, socially responsible leaders in their community. This mission is threaded throughout the RN to BS curriculum. The goal of public health practice experiences is to teach and empower students to exemplify this type of nurse leader.

Context of the Revisions

The re-design and implementation of clinical practice experiences for population-based nursing practice courses has presented an opportunity for innovation and living the St. Catherine University mission.

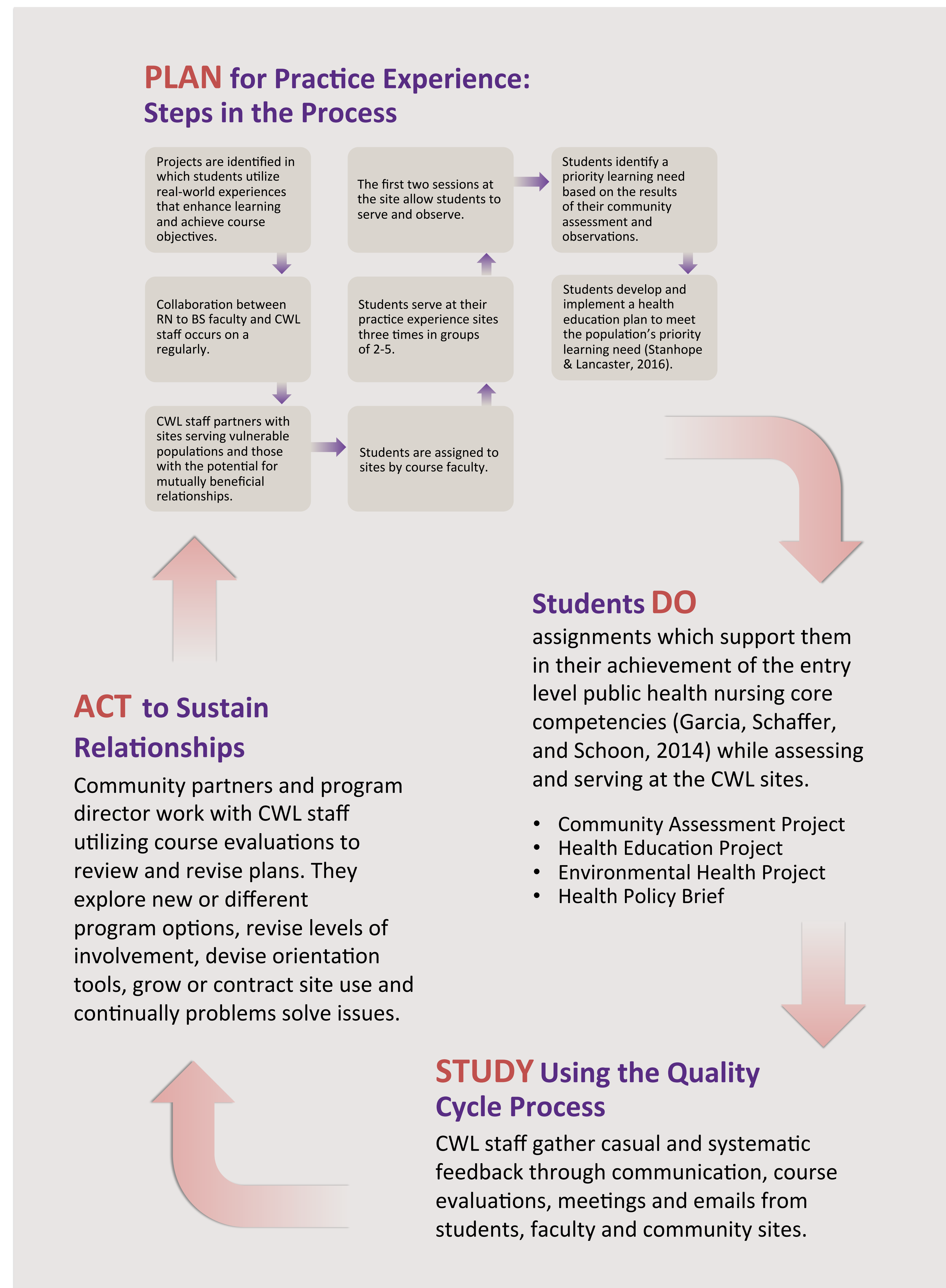
Factors contributing to this evolving practice experience model include:

- significant growth in enrollment
- competitive climate for clinical sites in the community
- evolving role of the nurse in population-based practice
- strong ties between St. Catherine University Center for Community Work and Learning (CWL) and organizations serving vulnerable populations in the area

This presentation shares how the design and implementation of practice experiences, in collaboration with community partners serving vulnerable populations, enables achievement of student learning outcomes. This model emphasizes development of public health nursing competencies that can be utilized across all settings.

References

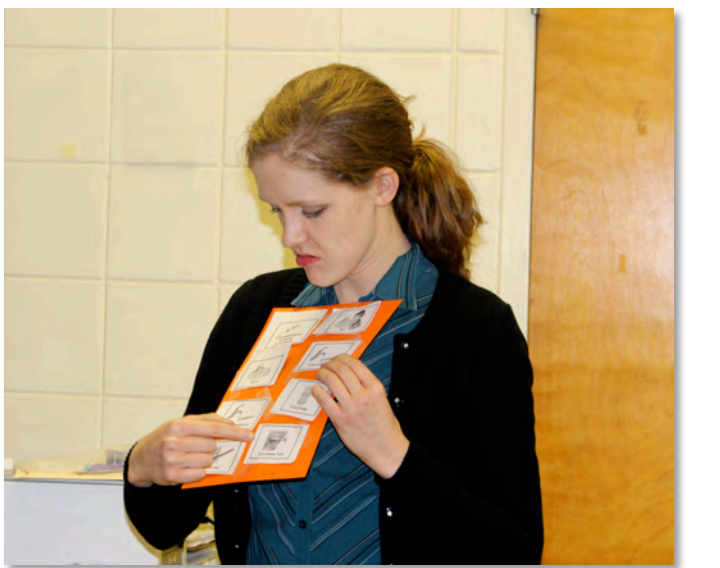
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Themes of Student Experience

Leadership:

"One of the most positive things about my population-based nursing practice experience was collaborating with other nurses from my class, developing public health nursing skills, and working with outside organizations."



Advocacy:

"It was invaluable to have the opportunity to work with a group of teenage, immigrant girls. Teaching them about women's health, sexuality, and being advocates for their own sexual health is an experience I will always remember."

Living the Mission of St. Catherine University

Community Engagement:

"The most positive thing about my population-based practice experience was learning how I could help the community through volunteering, donating, and giving back with our teaching."



Transformation:

"What I found most valuable about this experience was learning about the children with special needs. While each had their own version of disability, they were in essence, just like any kid. The level of consistency and positive feedback required to work with and create trust with these children is so important. My takeaway from this experience is tenfold."

Conclusion

- Based upon the results of student evaluations of their practice experiences and the extent to which student learning outcomes were achieved in the public health nursing courses, this model is successful for students. Feedback received from sites has been overwhelmingly positive, acknowledging that student projects have provided useful and important health education to populations served.
- The collaboration between RN to BS faculty and CWL staff is integral to the success of the practice experiences.
- In light of the changing landscape of healthcare and public health nursing, practice settings based upon the core competencies of public health nursing are successful in preparing students to assume public health nursing roles.