Charting the Course for the DNP by the DNP


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Objectives of this Panel Discussion

• Identify the components of evaluation of the DNP degree in the context of structure, process and outcomes.
• Describe the trajectory and potential path of the practice doctorate and DNP education as a result of feedback and involvement of DNP prepared nurses.
• Describe obstacles and pathways of success for determining the future trajectory of the growth of the practice doctorate and development and impact on outcomes.
The DNP is a Degree, Not a Role
Reflecting on the DNP degree trajectory (so far)

• The DNP degree was created and birthed by the AACN as the preparation for the practice doctorate
• DNP education prepares nursing practice doctorates that include clinical and non-clinical roles
• The key foundational theme of the degree is the word PRACTICE
• Practice implies and connotes the need for measurable outcomes
Our World is Changing
“The changing demands of this nation's complex healthcare environment require the highest level of scientific knowledge and practice expertise to assure quality patient outcomes” (AACN, 2013).

“DNP programs prepare leaders who will improve the quality of care, patient outcomes, and health policy that expands their impact on the health of society” (NONPF, 2005, para 3).
Self-Assessment as a Professional Hallmark

Self-assessment is the cornerstone of self-directed learning, the hallmark of a self-regulating profession (Ericsson, 2009).
Brief history of DNP Conference Participation Addressing a DNP Agenda

- 2009 DNP 2\textsuperscript{nd} National Conference in Miami made recommendations
- An agenda was articulated within these parameters
  - DNP Education
  - DNP Practice
  - DNP Policy

6th National DNP Conference 2013
Brief history of DNP Conference Participation Addressing a DNP Agenda (continued)

• 2010 DNP 3rd National Conference in San Diego again projected an agenda for DNPs similar to 2009

• 2011 and 2012 conferences included presentations on the revisit of these themes – no new or renewed thoughts were elicited
Brief history of DNP Conference Participation Addressing a DNP Agenda (continued)

• 2010, 2011, 2012 and now 2013 we have data on DNP Educational Programs and Outcome Perceptions by DNP Graduates

• Results and presentation available at:
  http://www.doctorsofnursingpractice.org/DNPSurveyResults.htm
Questions to Ponder in 2013

• Are nurses with the DNP degree demonstrating their abilities?
• Are nurses with the DNP degree self-assessing practice?
• What is the nurse with a DNP degree contributing to the nursing profession and society?
The Donabedian Model

- **Structure**—how well do we use providers to deliver care?

- **Process**—what are the health delivery processes that produce the best care and outcomes?

- **Patient Outcomes**—ultimately how does structure and process affect the patient and society to improve health?

Evaluation of the DNP as the Practice Doctorate in Nursing

Structure
DNP Education

Process
Healthcare Delivery by the DNP-Prepared nurse

Outcomes
Results for patients and populations
Structure

DNP Education

• Advanced Practice Role Development

• Scholarly Project as Demonstration of Meeting Competencies of Essentials & Entry to Practice Scholarship
Process

Health Care Delivery by the DNP-Prepared Nurse

- Innovative Advanced Practice Roles
- Innovative Health Care Delivery through Evidence-Based Practice
Outcomes

- Patient Outcomes
- Population Outcomes
- Policy Outcomes
- System Outcomes
The Next Step: Outcomes Driving Structure and Process

- Patient Outcomes
- Population Outcomes
- Policy Outcomes
- System Outcomes

Structure
DNP Education

Process
Healthcare Delivery by the DNP-Prepared Nurse

Outcomes
Results for patients and populations
Questions for Group Discussion

1. Are the outcomes from the practice by DNP prepared nurses realized and disseminated?

2. Is there a **substantive** feedback loop from the outcomes of DNP prepared nurses in practice back to DNP education?
Questions for Group Discussion

3. What can we as DNP prepared nurses do to chart the course for the future?
References