Using DNP Faculty Mentors as a Model to Ensure Quality and Success for the DNP Scholarly Project

Amy McKeever, PhD, CRNP, WHNP-BC; Debra Shearer, EdD, FNP-BC; Jeanne Venella, DNP, RNC
Villanova University College of Nursing

Abstract
- The DNP degree has been designed to promote the advanced practice role, and address the complexities of healthcare systems
- The DNP clinical doctorate requires a final DNP scholarly project
- There is no national standard guideline/requirements for DNP scholarly projects
- Outcomes of DNP scholarly projects vary in level of quality and scholarly

Purpose
- To present the benefits of a DNP faculty model using DNP project advisors and an part-time faculty methodologist to ensure quality, consistency, and timely program completion in a post-masters DNP program

Objectives:
- Describe the post-master’s DNP Program
- Define the role of DNP faculty project advisor and methodologist
- Provide strategies for DNP scholarly project successes
- Address the post-master’s DNP program outcomes

DNP Program Highlights
- This DNP program is a practice-focused doctoral program designed for post master’s Advance Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) and Nurse Administrators

The DNP Scholarly Project
- An academic product outcome that applies advanced empirical and theoretical knowledge to design, implement, and evaluate in the clinical environment based on the evidence

Examples:
- Quality Improvement Project
- Organizational Evaluation
- Policy/Practice Guideline Development
- Manuscript Development
- Clinical Education Program

Mentoring
- Mentoring is defined as a relationship between two individuals of differing levels of experience, one more experienced and one less experienced that focuses on advancing professional and personal development (American Association of Pharmaceutical Sciences [AAPS, 2012]

Description of the DNP Project Faculty Advisor and Methodologist
- Full-time faculty and part-time adjunct faculty
- DNP, PhD, and EdD prepared
- APRNs and Nurse Administrators
- Workload: mentor 3 students per cohort
- Compensated per-credit/per-course
- Methodologist: part-time adjunct faculty assigned to each DNP Project Seminar Course

Role of the DNP Project Faculty Advisor and Methodologist
- Mentor students through the design, implementation, evaluation, and dissemination of the DNP project
- Share clinical expertise, and methodological experience
- Set clear guidelines and deadlines
- Available to student’s on site practice mentor
- Serve as primary investigator if necessary for IRB issues
- Maintain regular contact via email, distance learning or face-to-face meetings throughout the semester
- Provide encouragement, support, and constructive feedback
- Require the student mentee to provide written with verbal updates 4 times each semester with “progress forms”

Program Outcomes
- 100% completion rate/23 students to date
- 93% of the graduating students had an abstract accepted to a national conference
- CCNE Accreditation

Contact Information
Amy.McKeever@Villanova.edu
Debra.Shearer@Villanova.edu
Jeanne.Venella@Villanova.edu

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Andy Bhattacharya, MHS
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