

**Bush Faculty Development Grant  
Area 4b**

Exploration and Development of Opportunities for Faculty and Students  
through Experiences in Nursing and Health Care  
at the University of Saskatchewan and Aboriginal Clinics in Saskatchewan, Canada

**Final Report**

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**The Canadian/USA Connection: Bridging the Border through Nursing Internships**

**Introduction**

International experiences, as well as interactions with international students, facilitate the expansion of Augustana's role from that of a private, regional institution to one of being a member in the broader global society. The opportunity for international/transcultural experiences enriches students' perspectives about nursing and health care and allows for added reflection and diversity in experiential "hands-on" health care practice.

**Purpose of the Project**

The initial purpose of this project was to create a design that would cultivate relationships, development connections, and explore the possibilities for collaboration through nursing internship opportunities with the nursing department at the University of Saskatchewan (USASK), Saskatoon, Canada. The proposal activities focused around two visits to USASK in the spring and summer of 2005, the first on May 1- 4 by Muriel Larson, and the second visit on July 5-9 by Muriel and Diane Josephson. The first visit included meeting with USASK faculty and staff in Saskatoon, and with staff at Willow Cree Health Clinic, Beardy First Nations Reserve. On the second visit, collaboration and conversation was extended to include the University at Regina and All Nations' Healing Hospital in Fort Qu'Appelle.

The following objectives framed dialogue during both visits:

1. The establishment of relationships with the nursing department at USASK through face-to-face meetings.

Objective #1 was met on both visits through arrangements made by the nursing department at USASK, with Katherine Ash, Assistant Professor of Nursing at USASK as the key contact person. Multiple meetings with nursing faculty and staff occurred at the sites listed above. Included in these meetings was staff from the Native Access to Professional Nursing (NAPN) Program in Saskatoon and Regina.

2. The identification of internship possibilities for Augustana nursing students at USASK.

Objective #2 was met through reviewing the process for establishing nursing internship programs at each institution (letter of intent, administrative approval, contractual agreement between institutions, and the evaluation of internship outcomes), identifying key personnel to advocate for the nursing internship, and for the supervision of nursing students at each site during the experience. Internship activities were discussed in detail, and will be submitted in a separate document. It was a consensus that we offer the opportunity to two senior nursing students during the January Interim.

Further discussion centered on the possibility for student and faculty exchanges with other departments, i.e. biology, education and business.

3. The identification of the possibility for student exchanges from USASK with Augustana College.

Objective #3 was met through dialogue about having USASK students come to Augustana College for the purpose of a transcultural/international nursing experience. This discussion also included the possibility of exchanges with other departments.

USASK has as one of its primary strategic planning goals to encourage internationalization for their students and faculty. It is recognized that great opportunities exist to us as neighbors in North America, and that it is a visionary effort to encourage “building a bridge” for the future between our countries for our students and faculty. An invitation was extended to nursing faculty and to the Coordinator for Global Relations to visit Augustana College and Sioux Falls in the near future.

4. Evidence of the influence and importance of the project as an expansion of student understanding of transcultural nursing and the opportunities for diverse learning experiences that incorporate the concepts of transcultural caring and the reality of our “global community” (Leininger, 1997).

The authors of this grant are deeply grateful for the opportunity to have begun the process of communication and connecting with the faculty in the nursing departments at USASK, the University in Regina, personnel in NAPN at both institutions, and with staff at Willow Cree on the Beardy First Nation Reserve, and at the All Nations' Healing Hospital in Fort Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan, Canada. We recognize as colleagues in academia and as health care educators that we share a passion for students and for clients of health care, that we are connected through a common border (literally are carved out of common land formed centuries ago during the glacier age), that we live on land, The Great Plains, on this planet that is shared by two nations, the Aboriginal peoples and the immigrants from diverse places who found their homes in Saskatchewan and South Dakota, and who believe that there is much to learn from building an on-going relationship between our borders – bridging South Dakota to Saskatchewan, and Saskatchewan to South Dakota. We have been privileged to have been a part of that building process.

On-going evaluation of this project will be conducted during the development of the details for an actual internship experience, and after the completion of the internship experience by/with the student. The descriptive details of the internship will be developed by the authors of this grant, in collaboration with the staff of the nursing departments involved in the project, and with the students who elect to enter into this exciting opportunity.

## **Budget Summary**

The summary of the budget and related rationale will be submitted to the Bush Faculty Development Committee and the Dean for Academic Affairs.

## **Conclusion**

The authors of this grant want to extend their deepest thanks to the following people. Without their assistance and enthusiasm, the successful completion of this grant would not have been possible. We look forward to working together with each one as the internship opportunities in nursing and other departments between the University of Saskatchewan, the University of Regina and Augustana College become a reality, and that continue to connect our place in the “global community”.

Dr. Beth Horsburgh, Dean of Nursing, University of Edmonton, Alberta, CA (previous Dean at USASK)  
Katherine Ash, RN, MN, Associate Professor of Nursing, USASK, coordinator of visits to U of S  
The Nursing Department faculty and staff at USASK.

Dr. Joan Sawatsky, Acting Chair, Nursing, USASK

Peggy MacLeod, Assistant Dean, NEPS

Mary MacDonald, Assistant Dean, USASK

Dr. Lynnette Leeseberg Stampler, Director of Graduate Studies, College of Nursing, USASK

Dr. Lalita Bhardwaji, Toxicology and Nursing, USASK

Sherry Stuber, Secretary, Department of Nursing, USASK

The Nursing Department faculty and students at the University of Regina

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Rob Norris, Coordinator – Global Relationships, USASK, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan  
Staff at All Nations’ Healing Hospital, Fort Qu’Appelle, Saskatchewan  
Lorna Breitkreuz, RN. MN, Director of Client Services, All Nations Healing Hospital  
Marian Zerr, MSA, RN, B.Sc.N, RN. Director of Health and Development, All Nations Healing Hospital  
Ethel Starblanket, Counselor, All Nations Healing Centre, Fort Qu’Appelle, SK  
Willow Cree Clinic Staff, Beardy First Nations Reserve, Saskatchewan  
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method. *Journal of Transcultural Nursing*. 8.2. January-June. pp. 32-57.