PRESENTED AT THE 2011 DNP CONFERENCE

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Abstract Category: DNP in Clinical Leadership

Title: DNPs Caring for the Underserved after Healthcare Reform

Purpose: To increase the readiness of DNPs to care for the medically underserved after healthcare reform based on the MA experience.

Objective 1: To review characteristics of new populations seeking care after healthcare reform based on the MA experience.

Objective 2: To identify resources for DNPs providing care to underserved populations.

Objective 3: To discuss the impact of scholarly projects on improving the care for the underserved.

Abstract:

Since the passage of the 2006 health care reform legislation in Massachusetts, over 400,000 previously uninsured persons have gained insurance access creating a surge in demand for primary care particularly in medically underserved areas. With funding from HRSA, the University of Massachusetts Lowell nursing program is preparing DNPs to assume clinical and administrative leadership positions in health care organizations adapting to new challenges in the post-healthcare reform era. Learning strategies, developed with working APNs in mind, include online modules to provide resources to enhance learning and skills for culturally competent care and care of medically underserved older adults and other diverse community populations. Information, links, and overviews of these resources will be distributed to participants in the poster session.

Other initiatives to promote cultural competence will be described including seminars for DNP and MS in Nursing students with speakers from community partner agencies, the Lowell Community Health Center and Evercare, an agency providing care to underserved older adults. A Diversity Scholar position will be offered as a sabbatical opportunity for 1 semester during the 2011-2012 academic year. The Diversity Scholar will provide seminars to faculty, students, and community partners on recruiting and retaining a diverse workforce and working with diverse and underserved populations. The Scholar will also build community and interdisciplinary research on decreasing health disparities. A mentoring program for DNP students with leaders in the community who provide care to diverse and underserved populations has been established. A diversity consultant provides consultation on curriculum integration
of cultural competency and caring for diverse underserved populations as well as seminars on recruiting and retaining diverse faculty members and students. Scholarly projects of current students will reflect innovative models to meet the needs of the underserved. The project is funded by a 3 year grant from HRSA D09HP19005-01-00.