Purpose: Two essentials of DNP education include content on health policy for advocacy in health care and also content about scholarship and knowledge of analytical methods to integrate evidence into practice. This presentation will discuss the integration of understanding of policy into DNP scholarly projects that yield a product that has the potential to change institutional policy.

Objective 1: Discuss the role of courses about health care policy and research in facilitating integration of evidence based practice and influencing policy in a health care system.

Objective 2: Identify ways in which students can conduct clinically related research to influence institutional change in health care policy

Abstract:

The Institute of Medicine recommends that all health care providers should be educated about the delivery of evidence based practice. In the development of core competencies for Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) education, therefore the AACN recommended that two essentials of DNP education include content on health policy for advocacy in health care and also content about scholarship and knowledge of analytical methods to integrate evidence into practice. DNP students excel at identifying areas of clinical import that are in need of further investigation which evolve from their clinical expertise and from learning about both health care policy and research and evidence based practice. Students can also often identify gaps where there is insufficient evidence upon which to base clinical care, a lack of institutional policies to guide care, or policies that do not ideally facilitate integration of evidence into care. The conduct of DNP research can be an integrating experience for students and can impact upon institutional, or system policy. In contrast, the conduct of clinical research and the writing of a thesis/scholarly project has, however, received varied support among DNP programs. This presentation will discuss integration of understanding of policy into DNP scholarly projects that yield a product that has the potential to change institutional policy. Examples of DNP student theses that have implications for policy change will be provided.