PRESENTED AT THE 2011 DNP CONFERENCE

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Abstract Category:

Title: Translating Practice into Public Policy (in the United States)

Purpose: Describe the essential elements of educating DNPs to translate practice into public policy

Objective 1: Summarize and evaluate the pillars of health reform

Objective 2: Describe four novel approaches to develop advocacy skills in DNP students

Objective 3: Describe the components of issue analysis

Abstract:

This presentation will challenge the focus on the US health care delivery system, health finance structures and current legislation as "the" policy education for DNPs. Content will be based on the presenter's personal experience in the US Senate, her doctorate in health policy, and DNP student evaluations of course designed to develop DNP knowledge, skills and abilities to translate practice into policy. Routinely, students at Duke have rated this policy course/experience as the best course in the DNP program. Examples of assignments, learning activities, and DNP student work will be featured. The context of American politics and the regulatory process will not be overlooked and will be the context in which transformational learning may occur.

Four approaches to developing and transforming APRNs' knowledge, skills and abilities will be presented including 1) the how-tos of writing an issue analysis (versus an opinion piece) for a policy maker with examples of do's and don'ts; 2) the rules of engagement with a policy maker or staff and the appropriate content of a Fact Sheet to leave behind; 3) making and publishing an advocacy video; and 4) writing and publishing an opinion editorial to make an impact.

Throughout the presentation there will be an emphasis on the policy maker's perspective as at parallels nursing's visibility and voice. This presentation will give faculty in DNP programs clear examples of strategies for incorporating policy into the curriculum. Students attending the conference will better understand how to use their voice with legislators, policymakers, and the press.