

ABSTRACT:

STREAM: **PREPARING NURSES ACROSS THE CONTINUUM**

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Nurturing professionalism in nursing through blogging

Blogs, wikis, PDA's, instant messaging, email and texting have become commonplace, if not ubiquitous, tools for communicating and learning among vast majority of post-secondary students. The use of educational blogs and their potential and ease of use for the purpose of stimulating and encouraging discussion, knowledge sharing, and reflective practice has only just begun but is already proven as a tool for improvement of learner outcomes according to the US Dept. of Education research released this year.

What makes blogging especially attractive to faculty is its ease of use by those with little or no experience in this technology. Application of nursing literature to clinical practice and discussion of its relevance in a familiar format can be powerful in developing praxis for students. Blogging can be used for meaningful discussion in a media in which the students feel at ease.

Discussion is a powerful learning tool and, with a few ground rules to ensure that the work has a pedagogical purpose it can assist the student to reflect on practice and develop critical thinking skills. Critical thinking is an essential skill required to practice in a constantly changing practice environment.

The discussion can enhance professionalism, enhance collegial relationships and assist in modeling professional behavior to the next generation of registered nurses.

BIO:

Carrie L. Allen RN MN

Carrie L. Allen is a faculty member of the Nursing Education Program of Saskatchewan SIAST Wascana Campus Regina, Saskatchewan. I have completed a masters' in nursing majoring in nursing education from the University of Saskatchewan. I have a clinical background in cardiology, long term care, rural health care and public health. She has been a clinical faculty in various clinical areas since 1992. I have been striving to enhance the learning of students especially in the areas of critical thinking and praxis.

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