

ABSTRACT:

STREAM: **PREPARING NURSES ACROSS THE CONTINUUM**

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Decreasing the load - Use of electronic resources

The purpose of this presentation was to present preliminary findings of our demonstration project in adopting the use of a software program (Nursing Central resources produced by Unbound Medicine) in a mobile electronic storage device by nursing students within NEPS SDEO. The introduction of Nursing Central was prompted by faculty assumptions that a more compact and portable format of resources would support the purchase of the required texts for a course. Faculty further believed that informed practice and patient outcomes would be improved.

The Nurse Education Program of Saskatchewan's (NEPS) Second Degree Entry Option (SDEO) is a nursing degree offered jointly by SIAST and the University of Saskatchewan. Students accepted into this program typically have completed one degree and are able to complete the program requirements in 22 months. Forty-four students are enrolled in the 2009-2010 academic year.

The entire period of the project is from 2009 August 31st to December 15th and includes classroom, lab, and clinical practice components of the curriculum; however, preliminary findings are for the period ending November 1st.

The project objectives include identification of student preferred mobile electronic device, what difficulties were encountered in accessing and purchasing software and the device, whether student learning was supported by timely access to resources, and finally whether the resources were in fact used. In the end, we will examine differences in use and outcomes between students who used paper based texts and those who used Nursing Central.

Presentation objectives

- Introduce Nursing Central as an alternative reference source
- Discuss benefits of Nursing Central

BIO:

Roslyn Maree Compton

Roslyn is employed by Saskatchewan Institute of Science and Technology (SIAST) in the Nurse Education Program of Saskatchewan (NEPS) Second Degree Entry Option, a position she has held since February 2007. She currently teaches in Foundations of Nursing Practice and The Practice of Nursing I: Theory. In addition to classroom and lab teaching, she is a clinical facilitator in long term care and medicine rotations. She is a member of the Nursing and Science and Health Divisions Interprofessional Education Team.

Roslyn has been practicing as a general Registered Nurse since the early 90's. She has worked as a generalist community nurse and early childhood nurse in both urban and remote settings in Australia; in acute care and remote area setting in Saskatchewan; and Preventative Medicine in Saudi Arabia. A majority of her work has been spent living and working with the Aboriginal population of Australia and Northern Saskatchewan in the area of early childhood and prenatal care.

Roslyn has a Master of Education(Adult) and has recently commenced her Doctorate at the University of Saskatchewan and will pursue her studies in gerontology with a narrative enquiry focus.

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Madeline Press

Madeline Press is full-time faculty for the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SIAST) in the Nursing Education Program of Saskatchewan (NEPS) Second Degree Entry Option, since January 2009. She currently teaches in the Practice of Nursing, Foundations of Nursing Practice and Assessment, both in the classroom and in the laboratory. As well, she is a clinical facilitator for long-term care and medical-surgical placements.

Madeline is a neuroscience nurse and has practiced in that field for 17 years both in acute care and in clinical research. More recently, she has been a patient care supervisor for the Saskatoon Health Region's trauma center and Acute Care Access Line.

Madeline completed her undergraduate nursing degree at the University of Saskatchewan and received a BSN with distinction. She recently completed the Masters of Nursing Generalist program through Athabasca University with a research focus.

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