

Building Bi-National Bridges:

Connecting Cultures in Nursing Education

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Presentation Goals

- Describe the development of a partnership between the Universidad Autónoma de Tamaulipas, Mexico Schools of Nursing and the University of Texas-Pan American Nursing Department
- Demonstrate the success of one collaborative bi-national project

Universidad Autónoma de Tamaulipas

- Programa de Intercambio Académico Docente-Estudiantil
- Nursing Campuses: Matamoros, Nuevo Laredo, Cd. Victoria, Tampico

Universidad Autónoma de Tamaulipas- Tampico Campus

- Baccalaureate in Nursing Program
- Masters of Science in Nursing (MCE)
- Focus on: Gerontologic Nursing



UAT BSN STUDENTS



Undergraduate Students

UAT

Students Registered in the RN program	21
Students Registered in the BSN program	746
Students Registered in the Complementary to BSN program	69
Total of students in Postgraduated program	62
Total	898

Nursing Campus-Tampico



Nursing Building



University of Texas-Pan American

- Part of the University of Texas System
- Nursing programs at Arlington, Austin, Brownsville, Edinburg, Galveston, Houston, San Antonio, and Tyler



University of Texas-Pan American Nursing Programs

- Baccalaureate of Science in Nursing
 - Focus on cultural awareness and health promotion
- Masters of Science in Nursing
 - Focus on culture and health promotion
 - Adult Health Clinical Specialist, Family Nurse Practitioner Program, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Program, Educator Role



Undergraduate Students

UTPA

Students Registered in the RN to BSN program	18
Students Registered in the generic BSN program	172
Students Registered in pre-BSN program	170
Total of students in graduate program	65
Total	425

UTPA & UAT Nursing Student Profile

- UTPA 87% Mexican-American
- UAT 100 % Mexican nationals
- UTPA 22% males
- UAT 10 % males
- UTPA 80% of students either speak or understand Spanish
- UAT 5 % of students speak English

UTPA Campus



UTPA BSN Students



Primary Objectives:

- Permit students and faculty at both institutions to develop an awareness of the academic services offered in the US and Mexico
- Develop strategic alliances that will enrich student and faculty learning
- Encourage the development of international collaboration among neighbor nursing schools

History of the Project

- 1994 Dr. Nevarez, UTPA President, requests initiation of relationship with UAT
- 1995 UAT Director de Dirección de Intercambio Académico visits UTPA campus

History of the Project

- 1996 *Academic Interchange between UTPA y UAT* signed
- 1996 UAT Nursing Directors visit UTPA campus
- 1996 UTPA Nursing Department Chair visits Victoria campus
- 1997 UTPA Nursing Department Chair visits Tampico campus

History of the Project

- 1998 UAT Nursing Faculty present at Nursing Research Day
- 1998- present Faculty at both institutions have presented at various conferences at both institutions
- 2003- Present UAT nursing students have spent a week at UTPA

UTPA Expectations

- Initiation of a relationship that would result in collaborative student and faculty interchanges
- Bi-National collaborative research projects

Nursing Faculty Expectations

- Increase in workload
- Possible cultural exchanges

UAT Expectations

To maintain an environment for learning that promotes respect for and appreciation of scholarship, freedom, human diversity and the cultural mosaic of the Mexican Republic; to work with UTPA in Bi-National research projects including faculty and students

Project Activities:

- UTPA Nursing Department Chair presentations at UAT campuses
- UTPA Nursing Faculty presentations at UAT campuses
- UAT student exchanges from Tampico
Mexico students attend class and clinical experiences
- UAT Nursing Faculty present at UTPA conferences
- UAT students, faculty, and community attend Nursing Research Day
- UAT included in HRSA grant activity through UTPA

Nursing Research Day at UTPA



PAN AMERICAN DAYS



Challenges and Barriers

- There have been many challenges and barriers that have had to be overcome to initiate and continue this collaboration.

UTPA Challenges

- Finding financial resources
- Faculty buy-in to the collaboration
- Student workloads are heavy
- Faculty workloads are heavy
- Busy faculty with multiple projects
- Faculty and student ethnocentricity

UTPA Barriers

- Time
- Workload
- Language
- Distance
- Culture

UAT Challenges

- Finding financial resources
- Faculty challenges
 - 15 Faculty are studying in a doctoral program abroad and should have their degree by 2007 (This will increase the chance for bi-national research projects)
- Faculty with multiple projects

UAT Barriers

- Language
- Culture
- Workload
- Time
- Distance

Lessons Learned

- The river does not divide but unite
- There are many cultural similarities between the two.
- Collaborative arrangements take much time and dedication
- Real friendships can be formed

Future Plans:

- US students to visit Tampico nursing school
- Participate in both clinical and class learning experiences
- Work collaboratively on research projects beneficial to our similar communities.

Fin!
Mil gracias!

