

Nursing exchanges: Global Strategies in Primary Care

Ruiz, Maria Elena. mr Ruiz@sonnet.ucla.edu

University of California Los Angeles. Estados Unidos

Abstract

Introduction: In the US, the nursing professions is not as diverse as the communities we provide care for, as less than 6% of all registered nurses are Latinos. Global health exchanges provide innovate learning experiences, enhance leadership, language and cultural opportunities for gaining insight on universal health care strategies with multidisciplinary teams.

Objective: In 2013, we developed an innovate graduate level nursing student exchange program, focused on bridging primary care, international community, and expand opportunities for population research. Students get to experience the Cuban health model, enhance language, and health policy skills.

Methods: We have completed our 5th year of the program. In order to gain university credit, students participate in all activities in Cuba, submit daily reflective journals, and critically compare and contrast their experiences with what the literature in post visit conferences. Post travel, students develop blogs with photos, adding learned strategies for international and health policy interventions. We have collected 100 student journals over the five years, and will present highlights of the qualitative analysis of the journals.

Results: The qualitative analysis of student journals demonstrate students gained knowledge of the Cuba doctor-nurse model, increased understanding of cross cultural differences, expanded respect and humility, and are motivated to improve health services, leadership, and bridging partnerships.

Conclusions: The Cuba exchange program may be the first all nursing group to bridge relations with Cuba. The student responses highlight how international exchange programs bridge and assist us in expanding collaborations for improving the role of nursing in primary health worldwide.

Keywords: lobal health exchanges; nurses; primary care