# Making the Research Project Personal

A year-long comprehensive project for undergraduate students weaving research and practice together

Gail Elliott PhD, RN, Kristen Harrell MSN, RN, & Mary Knowlton DNP, RN

Western Carolina University, School of Nursing, ABSN Program

### Introduction

Infusing students with passion, practical appreciation, and application for research and evidence-based practice (EBP) in the nursing curriculum remains a challenge but one educators are focused on achieving. While aiming to develop authentic learning experiences where learners can demonstrate competencies of The AACN Essentials, the ABSN 3<sup>rd</sup> Semester Comprehensive Project was developed.

## Purpose

Helping students appreciate the applicability of research and EBP, this project paired student groups with community facilities for the direct application of evidence-based practice and quality improvement principles. This project integrates many of the competencies and subcompetencies for entry-level professional nursing education, giving students a chance to develop leadership skills in their community while creating tangible benefits for their partnering facility.

### MAPPING TO AACN ESSENTIALS

1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4, 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5, 9.1, 9.2, 9.3, 10.2, & 10.3

## **Project Details**

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester

- Group Formation & Site Selection
- PICO Question, Literature Search & Appraisal
- Evidence Summary, Synthesis, & Recommendations
- Project Proposal
- NSG 324 EBP; John Hopkins EBP Model

- Project Execution
- Project Summary Document
- NSG 422/423 Community/Mental Health

### 4<sup>th</sup> Semester

- Review project results, draw conclusion, measure outcomes, reflect on project
- Disseminate results
- NSG 424 Leadership

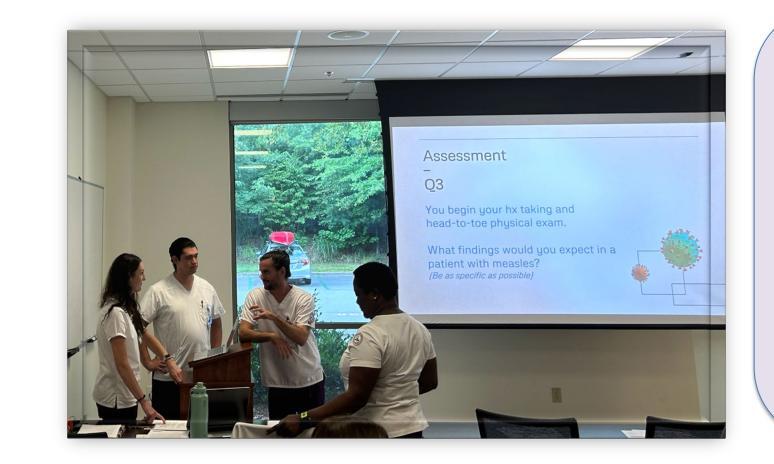
## **Community Partners**

- MAHEC Simulation Center
- Mission Hospital Research Council
- PACE (Elder Care Services)
- Solace (Hospice & Palliative Care)
- Helpmate (IPV Outreach Agency)
- Camp Tekoa & Gwynn Valley Camp
- Buncombe County Health & Human Services

## Project Examples

Revision of IPV curriculum to integrate content specific to Health Care Professionals





Tabletop Measles Case Study presentation for School Nurses

Developed and lead adolescent Mental Health Training for Camp Staff



# Lasting Impressions

"Part of MAHEC's mission is to train healthcare professionals in Western North Carolina and working with the ABSN students on a case study simulation was such a rewarding way to meet that mission. Being able to mentor aspiring nurses through the processes of simulation and evidencebased research was also rewarding to me as a RN. I am looking forward to the next cohort's project." MAHEC Simulation Center

"It was really helpful learning about the EBP process, and gratifying to see that our project made a real impact on Buncombe county school nurses! I will carry this skill on to my job and apply it when I engage in QI projects." ABSN Student



Scan me!