What Leadership Concepts and Professional Behaviors are Essential for Nursing Students to Possess?
Kathryn Guffy and Sara Peterson ♦ Nursing ♦ University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
Charlotte Sortedahl, RN, DNP, MPH, MS – Faculty Mentor

Background

- The Institute of Medicine Report of 2010, *The Future of Nursing*, identifies the need to educate nurses to be leaders
- Nurse educators need to prepare new graduates to work in complex healthcare systems
- There is a lack of descriptive research regarding what hospital nurse leaders believe are important professional behaviors and leadership concepts

Aim

- Interview hospital nurse leaders in the Midwest
- Identify important leadership concepts and behaviors registered nurses require
- Create a survey that will be distributed to a larger sample of nurse leaders

Methods

- Semi-structured interviews of 7 hospital nurse leaders were conducted
- Qualitative content analysis was performed on audio-taped interviews
- 5 key themes revealed
- 102 item survey was created based on the 5 key themes
- Survey was sent to original seven nurse leaders and survey expert for critique

Findings

- The Five Essential Concepts Identified:
  - Change
  - Conflict
  - Communication
  - Leadership
  - Self-Awareness

Conclusion

- Data collected will inform nurse educators of the essential course content that can be incorporated into the classroom in order to equip students for exceptional leadership.

Current Status of Research

- Project is currently in the face validity phase
- Anticipated time of distribution is May 2013

Future Plans

- Survey will be distributed to nursing leaders in 6 Midwestern states
- Results will be used to improve undergraduate course content

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