

Student Support to Attend MNA Professional Conference

Harford Community College (HCC) and the Maryland Nurses' Association (MNA) collaborated to create a full day conference track with student centric content. Student attendance was funded by NSPFI grant #16-111.



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Background:

Grant project goals included:

- Nursing students across Maryland can attend a workshop for nursing students with appropriate speakers and various higher education partners
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Outcome measurements included:

- Students who attend the workshop will evaluate it as good or very good at increasing their understanding of professionalism in nursing and the value of academic progression
- Students will have the opportunity to network with other nursing students throughout the state to discuss the topic of academic progression and professionalism in nursing

Methods:

Advertising and registration were managed by HCC.

- Information was circulated to the nursing programs in the state via the deans and directors groups.
- Registration was managed via Eventbrite which has a free option for no-cost events.
- Students were provided a link to the registration site.

Programming was arranged by MNA. Learning objectives for the student track included:

- Career preparation- to develop and identify skills that can be applied during the process of writing a resume and interviewing for a job
- Transition to practice- to examine hospital-based nurse residency programs offered in the state of Maryland to new nursing graduates
- Health and wellness- to avoid burnout, stress and fatigue and maintain a healthy lifestyle in the workplace

Results:

- 169 students representing 10 community colleges and 5 universities were registered
- 90% of students who responded to the survey were not enrolled in a dual enrollment program (such as associate to bachelor progression)
- About ½ of the respondents reported receiving some sort of academic credit for attending (clinical time, practicum hours, etc.)
- 90% would not have attended without the grant funding
- ½ of the respondents noted conference attendance changed their level of commitment to lifelong learning and students reported activities such as visiting a professional nursing organization website, joining a professional organization, establishing a mentee relationship with a professional nurse, and visiting a university's website to learn about their nursing programs (BSN, MSN, DNP, PhD, etc.)

Take-aways:

- Students were grateful that they had the opportunity to attend the MNA Convention
- Students had the option to attend sessions that were not specifically on the student track and most attended some but not all
- Students appreciated the opportunity to network and meet with exhibitors as well as attend the break-out sessions
- Better attendance was noted when students were accompanied by a faculty member