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 NSPII grant #16-111.

Come and join us!
MNA 116th Annual Convention
“Healthy Nurse, Healthy Maryland”

Enhance your professional development, network with peers, learn about new products, earn continuing education hours at the MNA 116th Annual Convention!

DRSpielman, MSN, RNC-OB, CNE
Harford Community College
Background:

Grant project goals included:

• Nursing students across Maryland can attend a workshop for nursing students with appropriate speakers and various higher education partners
• Nursing students across Maryland can attend a workshop for nursing students with appropriate speakers and various higher education partners

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