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Award Corner

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Award Corner

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My career in nursing began more than three decades ago. Healthcare education during that time was delivered in the familiar “silo” style. Having to navigate through clinical practice, learning along the way which disciplines were involved in the care of patients and how to work as a team developed over time.

Coming from the hierarchical system that was once considered the norm, I have learned that throughout my years in practice and later as a clinical faculty, collaborative efforts with other disciplines were established as informal conversations about the patients deferring to the discipline that had the most power or influence in the patient’s care.

While this was how it was then, I felt something more was possible and necessary to provide the best healthcare had to offer for patients. Fast forward to 2008, when I obtained a faculty appointment at Thomas Jefferson University, Jefferson School of Nursing, BSN program. I was assigned to the Health Mentors Program as a faculty liaison. Unaware of the interprofessional movement at TJU, I quickly became acquainted with the Jefferson Interprofessional Education Center’s mission and found this to be in line with my own values as a team member but also, in line with the current movement to create effective healthcare teams. Major organizations and accrediting bodies (IOM’s 1999 *To Err is Human*, AACN’s 2008 *The Essentials*, IOM’s 2010 *The Future of Nursing*; IPEC’s 2011 *Core Competencies for Interprofessional Collaborative Practice*) challenge higher education institutions and healthcare organizations to incorporate interprofessional education (IPE) activities that foster collaborative engagement in the practice environment. Being a part of the interprofessional “wave” over the past five years, I have had the fortune to participate in several interprofessional activities and committees, including the role of the nurse in a GEC video (2009), faculty membership on the Interprofessional Curriculum Committee (2010-2011), Clinical Rounding Sub Committee (2010-2012), Faculty Development Presentation (2011), and faculty liaison for the Health Mentors Program (2008 to present). As most know, the commitment to IPE is often voluntary, happening along with other faculty responsibilities. It is that commitment that brings together a group of healthcare professionals from schools across the university who share a common goal – to develop and sustain the work of promoting IPE and collaboration.

I have had the pleasure of working with other faculty volunteers these last five years and look forward to continued involvement in JCIPE opportunities as well as being a role model for other faculty who want to be a part of the JCIPE spirit.

Last June, 2013 I was the proud recipient of the ***James B. Erdmann Award for Excellence in Interprofessional Education***. Receiving this award validated my professional goal of

involvement in IPE. Being TJU faculty has given me the opportunity to be a part of a growing group of faculty who maintain and sustain IP initiatives and I am humbly aware that my contribution is part of the bigger campus-wide movement. It is a great time to be a Jeffersonian!



James B. Erdmann, PhD, FASAHP