Linking Community Service and Interprofessional Education: The Salus University Veterans Readiness Initiative

Interprofessional Care for the 21st Century
Jefferson Center for Interprofessional Education
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About Salus University

- Specialized graduate health professions
- Neurosensory/sensorimotor program emphasis
- Strong retired military presence

**Mission**
To lead in innovative education, research and service to enhance health

**Vision**
To impact the future of healthcare, education and professional practice
Veterans Readiness Initiative (VRI)

Document, identify and remove sensory barriers to Veteran reintegration

Partners

Community College of Philadelphia

Supporters

HCE - Hearing Center of Excellence

Vision Center of Excellence
Output To Date

- Four Screening Events
  - 60 Veterans (56 unique)
  - 37 student clinicians
  - 7 faculty
  - >60 referrals for follow-up care

- 4 Briefings
  - Defense Centers of Excellence (Vision, Hearing)
  - VA Central Office
  - Under Secretary of the Army

- Hearing Vision Balance Clinic Pilot
  - Integrated practice model (OD/AuD/PT)
  - Trauma-associated vision, visual function, hearing, balance
  - Veterans Choice Program participant
  - Continued collaboration with community partners
Multisensory and Veteran Focused

- Interdisciplinary Clinical Development Team
  - Medical Anthropologist
  - Audiologist
  - Optometrist

- Multisensory Intake Screening Protocol
  - New 21-question symptom screening tool
  - Tests of visual acuity and function, hearing, balance and tinnitus

- AuD/OD Interprofessional Teams
  - Student clinicians for intake and testing
  - Faculty preceptors
  - VRI Team clinicians to interpret and recommend

- On-site VA Medical Center Staff

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Pre-Screening Training

For students and faculty preceptors

One hour

- Logistics
- Roles, process, and flow
- Intake interview and screening tests
- VRI background
- Working with Veterans
Post-Screening Outcome Assessment

- Post mortem with partners
- Brief interviews with participating Veterans
- Student survey
  - SurveyMonkey
  - Voluntary and anonymous
  - 10 questions
    - Training session (5)
    - IPE experience (4)
    - General comments (1)
  - 81% response rate
IPE Study Aim and Methods

- Better understanding of VRI-style IPE
  - Meaning to students
  - Inform IPE at Salus University
- Content analysis of IPE questions from student survey
- IRB-approved as Exempt Research Category 4
Four IPE Questions

Q1: Before the events, what did you think about having to team with someone from a different profession?

Q2: Did your thinking change after the screening events?

Q3: What did you like about working with the other profession?

Q4: What did you not like about working with the other profession?
Content Analysis

- Text immersion
- Response categories emerged
  - Knowledge acquisition (learning)
  - Social interaction (teaming)
  - Affect (emotional reaction)
- Categories tested and confirmed
- All responses coded
- 104 coded words/phrases
IPE Findings: Highlights

- **Q1:** Before the events, what did you think about having to team with someone from a different profession?
  - 41 total coded responses
    - 66% affect
    - 20% knowledge acquisition
    - 15% social interaction
    - 8:1 ratio of positive to negative affect
    - “Excited” the most common (10)

- **Q2:** Did your thinking change after the screening events?
  - Forced choice with comments
  - Subject to multiple interpretations, not useful
  - 7 coded comments, all positive
IPE Findings: Highlights

Q3: What did you like about working with the other profession?
- 31 total coded responses
  - 71% knowledge acquisition
  - 16% social interaction
  - 13% affect

Q4: What did you not like about working with the other profession?
- 24 total coded responses
  - 100% affect
    - 63% positive
    - 37% negative
Application and Continuing Research

- Immediate Process Improvements
  - Pre-event training
  - Screening event teaming experience

- Continuing Analysis
  - Interplay between affect, social interaction and knowledge acquisition
  - Better understanding of knowledge acquisition

- Dissemination of Findings
  - Deans of participating colleges
  - IPE Committee colleagues
  - Publication
In Conclusion

“I thought it would be a great experience to see what another profession performs since we will all be healthcare professionals and will be helping each other with different diagnoses.”
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- Salus’ IPE Committee participated in the JCIPE Interprofessional Education and Care Practicum Winter Immersion Program in February 2013
  - Timely after the launch of the Committee several months earlier
  - Helped the Committee to formulate its inaugural initiatives
- “Interprofessional education initiatives at Salus University: a unique perspective in both didactic and clinical education.” Presentation at the JCIPE Workshop in October 2014
- Salus colleagues are also presenting at this conference: “The Design and Implementation of a Collaborative Community-Based Assessment”
  - Faculty members from Salus’ College of Education and Rehabilitation
Thank you!

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