Abstract Template

Supporting Competence Development through Virtual and Traditional Simulation

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Abstract (not more than 300 words)

With the rapid advancement of technology and changing geographical and population demographics, it is crucial that scientific research keeps pace within the field of caring in order to safeguard patient safety and prepare future caregivers. This abstract outlines an ongoing national RD&I project aimed at the development of renewed strategies and models that strengthen co-creation between higher education and working-life within Finland.

This research seeks to understand the needs of diverse groups of nursing students, in order to facilitate the development of effective educational practices using virtual and traditional simulation. Specifically: i) identify factors related to the competence development of first year nursing students who study alongside others from varying nationalities, in a foreign language, ii) evaluate congruence between first year nursing students' self-assessments during virtual simulation and their ability to prioritize care and utilize clinical reasoning during traditional simulation exercises.

Thus far, the results show student's strong reliance on memorization, mimicking and a lack of reliance on critical thinking and problem solving during demonstration/assessment. Feedback from students suggest challenges with contextualization and self-preservation as a coping mechanism. The next step in this project will investigate if and to what extent the timing and type of assessment practices influence the choices students make. It will be interesting to see if using diverse assessment practices across several courses over one year will allow students the opportunity to choose a different approach during demonstration and assessment. The end of this research initiative will be realized with the creation of new learning models and assessment strategies that facilitate the contextualization of theory and the utilization of critical thinking and problem solving during activities that involve multi-cultural, multi-professional caring clusters in diverse contexts. A future study could investigate the choices students make during internships to see if there are similar patterns.

Keywords—*competency development, higher education, nursing, virtual simulation*

Professional Biography (100-150 words)

Denise is accomplishing doctoral studies at Vaasa University within the field of Business. She holds a Master's in Social Services, Business Administration, and an undergraduate degree in nursing. She has 30+ year experience as an Advanced Nurse Clinician specializing in

Neurosurgical Trauma. Currently she is a senior lecturer at Arcada University of Applied Sciences within the department of Healthcare. Denise participates as a keynote speaker regularly at conferences throughout Europe focusing on digital pedagogy, diversity and sustainability issues within higher education where she strives toward increased cooperation within the business and healthcare sectors.



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Any Comments:

I have had the opportunity to attend 7 conferences as a keynote last year and 4 thus far since August. I would be happy to participate as a speaker and/or lead a workshop (show the virtual simulation program and how I integrate it into our curriculum, or present a poster … I can provide recommendation letters from past events and/or voice clips if you wish…