

Connecting Communities: The Development of an International Collaboration on Nurse Staffing Metrics and Patient Outcomes

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The purpose of this project is to connect local and global partners in the examination of issues related to nurse staffing and patient outcomes. Additionally, the project will expand and strengthen existing relationships between Kennesaw State University (KSU), specifically the WellStar School of Nursing (WSON), WellStar Kennestone Regional Medical Center (WKRMC), and Sultan Qaboos University Hospital (SQUH) in Muscat, Oman. This potential project was discussed during a November 2014 Omani delegation visit to KSU, WSON, and WKRMC. It was suggested at that time that the creation of a collaborative would be of mutual benefit to all parties. The purpose is directly linked to initiatives outlined in KSU's strategic plan. The strategic plan specifically states (G1.O3.) that there is a desire "to increase the number of faculty nationally and internationally recognized for their research, scholarship, creative activity, and professional service". Further, Goal Three indicates that members of the KSU team should become more engaged and prominent in the local community, Georgia, the nation, and the world. Objective One (G3) states that KSU wants to "develop and implement a community engagement framework that creates synergies among engagement initiatives". This project would contribute to the achievement of each of these goals/objectives.

The vision of this project is to develop an enduring international relationship between two academic institutions (WSON and SQU) and two tertiary healthcare providers (WKRMC and SQUH) that will be of mutual benefit to all members of the collaborative and the communities they serve. The initial goals of the partnership will be to connect nursing faculty, nursing administrators, clinical nurses, alumni, and students in the pursuit of improved quality of nursing and health care services based on a better understanding of nurse staffing metrics and their relationship to quality patient outcomes. The mission of this project is to maximize the contribution of nursing leaders, academicians, students, alumni, and clinicians across international settings to advance the knowledge of nurse staffing and productivity and their relationship to quality patient outcomes.