

Urban Immersion: Understanding the Community and Its Needs

Objectives

- Develop a greater understanding of vulnerable populations.
- Understand community resources.
- Increase student empathy and promote advocacy.
- Increase knowledge about topics such as social determinants of health, health equity, institutional racism, privilege, health policy.



Background

- Challenges finding precepted clinical sites
- Increasing focus on care in community settings
- Increase student exposure to diversity and inclusion

Assignments

- Bus simulation
- Motivational interviewing module
- Daily guided reflection journal
- Blind Spot book club
- Implicit bias and culture assignment
- Virtual poverty simulation

Sites

- Food Pantry
- Homeless Shelters
 - ADRC
- Local Public Schools
- Equestrian therapy
- Free/Reduced fee healthcare clinic
 - Refugee services
 - Salvation Army



Feedback

- Awareness of privilege
- Everyone deserves dignity
- Awareness of resources
- There are so many barriers/obstacles to care/services
- Challenged personal biases and assumptions
- Understanding of the role of the nurse in the community

College/Agency Benefits

- Lessened the burden of finding precepted clinical sites
- Increased flexibility of course offering
- Student engagement with community agencies



Challenges/ Lessons Learned

- Site availability
 - Long days
- Gaps in student schedules
- Group activities in the evening not well received
 - COVID

Kathie DeMuth MSN, RN and Julie Lamal MSN, RN