SON partners with UHS to prepare students

In keeping with the UT Health Science Center School of Nursing’s mission to produce the future nursing leaders for our community, state, and nation, BSN students are required to enroll in a Leadership and Management class during their final semester. Leadership and Management: Clinical Application is a course that provides opportunity for clinical application of nursing leadership and management in diverse settings to promote quality patient outcomes. One requirement of the course is a colloquium, where students are assigned topics and asked to work as a group on a presentation. Students are placed into groups of 10 students, with each student playing an essential role in the success of the presentation.

“The colloquium is important because students gain content expertise, learn how to put together a workshop, understand the importance of working in groups, and perfect their communication skills,” said course coordinator Janis Rice, MSN, RN, CNS-CC, and Associate Clinical Professor. “This exercise prepares them to be organized and professional, engage with community health care organizations, and demonstrate active nursing leadership.”

In the past, students in the course have presented their colloquium topics to fellow students and School of Nursing faculty; however, last fall students were given the opportunity to present their colloquium topics to University Hospital System (UHS) leadership and staff as well. University Hospital hosted the presentations in their boardroom and provided an elegant breakfast for our students. Tim Brierty, FACHE, Chief Executive Officer, University Hospital; Clarice Golightly-Jenkins, faculty at the School of Nursing and director of the UH Residency program; Dr. Evelyn Britt Swenson, Director, Center for Excellence in Patient Care, UHS; Bonnie Schranner, Continuing Education Director, UHS; and several PCCs and staff RNs attended the session.

Presentation topics included:
- Silence Kills: Crucial Conversation
- Board of Nursing Disciplinary Actions
- Physician Abuse
- Benefits of Professional Organization Membership and Certification

“The audience was so impressed with the students’ creativity, knowledge, IT abilities, professional appearance and countenance,”
Rice said. “Having the opportunity to re-present their topics gave our students confidence, and they were honored to share their findings with hospital staff.”

The event was quite successful, and our Health Science Center students were asked to present their topics again at a full-day workshop for South Central Texas Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates on April 5th. Rice hopes that future 4th semester BSN students will continue to have the opportunity to present their topics to UHS as well as other professional organizations.

“Students take the presentations seriously,” she said. “Meeting with UHS leadership and staff face-to-face provides a wonderful networking opportunity for our students, and it’s also a way for us to give back to UHS for the time that they have invested in our students.”