Greetings! In this month’s newsletter, we recognize how we are actively living DUSON’s Core Values, specifically the pillar of Collaboration.

Our Community Partner Spotlight highlights one of our many collaborative efforts. The Durham Consortium of Nursing Schools consists of clinical faculty representing DUSON, NCCU, UNC, and Watts School of Nursing. This unique partnership allows for coordination of clinical placements in Durham, sharing innovative strategies, and working towards community health improvement.

Dr. Anne Derouin is our D-CHIPP Faculty Affiliate spotlight this month. Dr. Derouin’s collaboration with community partners spans across non-profit organizations, schools, and community health centers.

In 2018, D-CHIPP convened a consortium of community/public health nursing faculty in the Durham area including Duke University School of Nursing, North Carolina Central University Department of Nursing, University of North Carolina School of Nursing, and Watts School of Nursing. This step was taken after community partners brought to our attention the multiple requests made by schools to be clinical sites. The goal of the consortium is to align our collective schedules and programming and present a unified approach and continuity of programs to improve community health.

The group began meeting in the fall of 2018. One of the first objectives for the consortium was to map out community and population health courses and clinical sites in the Durham and surrounding area. (cont’d...)
The four schools of nursing serve nearly 25 community organizations and their clients who represent a marginalized and racially diverse population. Mapping courses was key for community health program leadership at the nursing schools in order to pinpoint the organizations served over the course of the academic year and avoid overlap. We anticipated duplication of efforts and programming during the same semesters; however, we discovered that although community and population health courses are sometimes offered during the same semesters, the schools are either working with different community partners or on different days of the week. There is virtually no overlap in school clinical placements within the Durham community. Willie Gilchrist, Clinical Site Coordinator and Nursing Faculty at NC Central University Department of Nursing says about the consortium, “Through this collaboration, we share new and innovative ways to expose our students to Public Health Nursing. We are committed to providing a valuable learning experience for our students.”

The consortium also allowed for discussion of opportunities to collaborate on larger health promotion events in the community. Each year, DUSON ABSN students assist with giving thousands of influenza vaccinations across Duke’s campuses. The consortium discussed the possibilities of bringing students together for a larger events such as community-wide health fairs or flu vaccination clinics; however, the topic has been tabled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition, the representatives from the four nursing schools have a mutual respect and admiration for each other. This has allowed for movement beyond a competitive environment to one of collaboration in order to further community health and share ideas. Some of these shared ideas include best practices in establishing clinical agreements, simulation exercises, and ways of electronic collaboration. "Being part of the consortium has been both professionally and personally rewarding. The spirit of collaboration rather than competition has resulted in joint efforts to creatively address identified community health needs, an opportunity to share our positive consortium experiences with nurse educators across the country, and new friendships," says Marianne Cockcroft, Associate Professor at UNC Chapel Hill School of Nursing.
NEWS FROM THE CENTER FOR NURSING RESEARCH

Exciting announcements—watch your inbox!

Last month we included information in this newsletter about the DUSON Community Researcher Partner Program, a collaborative program between the Center for Nursing Research and D-CHIPP. More information about the program, renamed Research Equity & Sustainable Partnerships Encouraging Community Trust (RESPECT) is forthcoming!

Two exciting health disparities conferences will soon be announced. The first, sponsored by the CTSI on August 7th, will focus on COVID-19 research and recruitment of underserved minorities. Rosa Gonzalez-Guarda will be a featured speaker. The second sponsored by the Social Sciences Research Institute, to be held later in August, will focus on COVID-19 health disparities, mistrust, and misinformation.

Finally, applications open August 1st for the Center for Nursing Research 2020-2021 Pilot Funding Program. Interested researchers have until August 31st to indicate their intent to submit. Applications selected for full proposals will be due October 1, 2020.

D-CHIPP AFFILIATE SPOTLIGHT: Anne Derouin, DNP, RN, CPNP, FAANP

Hometown: Born in Kalamazoo, Michigan (yes, that is a real place!). Grew up in Grand Rapids, which on the west side of the mitten state.

Favorite food: a tie: Pizza and Honeycrisp apples.

Favorite thing: living!

Favorite vacation spot: on a beach with toes in the sand.

Current research or other projects: Resiliency and understanding impact of social determinants of health in Durham; promoting healthcare role in assessment, treatment and support of substance use disorder; promoting risk of vaping among teens; collaborating with Exploring Medicine, Honduras; Advisory committee for Durham Southern High School Wellness Center.

Courses teaching this or next semester / our taught recently: I teach the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner clinical courses, Pediatric mental health courses and share a Substance Use Disorder (SUD) course with Dr. Muzyk. I also teach a Healthcare Essentials Course for graduate students in the School of Medicine and chair DNP projects annually.

Community partners: Durham Together for Resilient Youth and the wonderful Dr. Wanda Boone, Lincoln Community Health Center, Duke Global Health Institute, Durham Public Schools.

What Dr. Derouin likes best about working in community health: I’ve always loved partnering directly with the community members and building relationship with various healthcare professionals to promote well-being, especially among youth and families. Serving as a link (or bridge) that aims to foster understanding and collaboration has been most meaningful. My hope is that we create a future in which all members of the community are both resilient and interdependent on one another, demonstrating unity, equity and harmony.

Dr. Derouin adds: Proud to be a member of D-CHIPP, which is fosters meaningful nursing innovation and leadership to improve community health.

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More recently, the consortium members met to discuss how to move community health clinical placements, traditionally conducted in-person, to virtual clinical experiences. When classes moved online in the spring, and all other clinical experiences temporarily discontinued, community health course professors and clinical instructors from the nursing schools had to quickly innovate in order to provide opportunities for students to complete their clinical hours. By working with the community partners, solutions were developed that allow students to connect with the organizations’ clients either by telephone or online. Sharing these best practices among colleagues was validating since this is a brand new approach to conducting community health clinical placement.

In June 2019, Dr. Marianne Cockroft from UNC Chapel Hill School of Nursing and Dr. Irene Felsman from DUSON, gave a podium presentation about the objectives and benefits of forming a local consortium of nursing schools at the annual conference for the Association of Community Health Nurse Educators (ACHNE). Drs. Cockroft and Felsman, and other members of the consortium, are also working on a manuscript for peer-reviewed publication.