Developing a Palliative Care Focus in a Doctor of Philosophy Program

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The challenges of developing a palliative care focus in a PhD program are unique.

- In this presentation, I will:
  - Describe the importance of palliative care as a major component of PhD in Nursing Science education and the challenges we face in implementing these programs.
  - Describe my use of Freire’s (1968) Critical Pedagogy as a model for the development and supervision of dissertations focusing on palliative care.
  - Provide “real world” exemplars of dissertations with a palliative care focus.
The unique nature and importance of palliative care in the Nursing Science PhD in our current healthcare context
The unique challenges we face in implementing palliative care as a PhD program focus
Palliative care is NOT a physical location.

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION...
Our PhD students and the gifts they bring...
Critical Pedagogy as a Strategy

Critical Pedagogy (def.): A teaching approach which attempts to empower students and make meaningful social change.
Critical pedagogy as a praxis-based approach to cultivating nurse scholars

PAULO FREIRE: PEDAGOGY OF THE OPPRESSED (1968)
No one educates anyone else
nor do we educate ourselves,
we educate one another in
communion in the context of
living in this world.

~ Paulo Freire
Faculty recognize that students have life experiences and their own knowledge that is key in shaping their education and learning.
A teacher who learns and a learner who teaches (Freire, 1968.)

“Whoever teaches learns in the act of teaching, and whoever learns teaches in the act of learning.”

~ Paulo Freire, Pedagogy of Freedom
What does this relational approach look like in real world terms?

Cultivating relationships with and through PhD students who are seasoned professionals delivering palliative care in diverse settings
Developing team science through student and alumni-mediated relationships and contexts
Looking for hidden treasure...

- Encouraging PhD students to access databases in diverse locations that currently are under represented in the palliative care literature: ED, ICU
Dissertation Exemplars

FROM THE
BEYSTER INSTITUTE FOR NURSING RESEARCH
UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO
“Dyspnea: Effect of Auricular Acupressure in End Stage Lung Cancer Patients”

ROGER A. STRONG, PHD, RN
“A Phenomenological Study of Health Professionals’ Perceptions of Good and Bad Pediatric Hospital Deaths, Self-Care Needs and Lingering Distress”

CARMEN SPALDING, PHD, RN
CONCLUSION

CRITICAL PEDAGOGY

PRAXIS

SYNERGY

“Periods of tranquility are seldom prolific in the process of creative achievement. Humankind must be stirred up.”

~Alfred Whitehead