

2017 INU Nursing Workshop: Global Perspectives on Quality and Safety

In August of 2017 ten faculty and twenty-one students from INU institutions attended a Patient Safety and Quality Nursing Workshop in Hiroshima. Participants came from the USA, Sweden, the UK, Spain, South Africa, and Japan. The goal of the program was to engage nursing students and faculty in academic and applied inquiry regarding patient safety and quality of care so that graduating nurses can ensure quality healthcare delivery in their future nursing practice.

Participants attended lectures and group discussions on Toyota Lean Theory, Quality and Safety Education for Nurses (QSEN), the differences and best practices in different countries' healthcare systems and safety initiatives, and using patient stories for reflective practice. Additionally, participants attended various other activities to facilitate team-building and develop intercultural competencies. One such example is "speed-dating", of which Gwen Sherwood, Professor and Associate Dean for Global Initiatives at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill said, "My standout was the day we did the "speed dating" with simulation, teach back and SBAR. Each of those activities transcended the 6-7 languages and varied backgrounds of the participants in pursuit of common understanding of key safety and quality approaches that can improve patient care outcomes. It really helped me prepare the students to be safety champions."



On community visits, participants went to a medical call center, a tour of the Mazda Museum, a presentation put on by the staff at Mazda University Hospital, the Hiroshima University Hospital, and on a tour of a nursing home.

In addition to academic experience, the workshop also included cultural activities. Participants visited the Peace Museum and took part in the Peace Memorial Ceremony. Christine Argenbright, Assistant Professor of Nursing at James Madison University said, "Attending the Peace Memorial Ceremony was the beginning of a transforming life experience that I shared with students, faculty and the amazing people of Hiroshima. I will always be grateful for my time spent in Hiroshima." They also went on a Sakagura visit to learn how sake is made, participated in Ocha, or a Japanese tea ceremony, looked on at an Ikebana demonstration where they learned the art of flower arrangement, watched Kendo, learned how to cook Okonomiyaki, visited Miyajima, the island of floating gods, and ate a traditional Japanese meal. These cultural activities added greatly to the overall experience of the workshop.

“The course developed a global holistic understanding of the concepts patient safety and quality improvement. The course was based on a mixture of theoretical lessons, study visits and cultural activities/ Faculty and students increased their knowledge in purpose to prevent patient safety incidents by properly designing processes, team work and good communication.” claimed Mariette Bengtsson, director of the nursing program at Malmö University. This workshop brought together various cultural perspectives on healthcare and allowed workshop participants to learn best practices from one another.

