Hartford Center of Gerontological Nursing Excellence and TLC partner to create online learning modules

“My participation in the Gerontological Nursing Scholars program will translate to an improved ability for me to impart to students and colleagues and clients more and better information about the graying of our society and the challenges and opportunities for culture change that accompany this shift.” – Barb Enos, MN, RN-BC

As the nation’s population of older adults grows, it is has become increasingly important to educate more nurses in gerontology. With this aim, the Hartford Center for Gerontological Nursing Excellence at the OHSU School of Nursing has partnered with the Teaching and Learning Center (TLC) to create several gerontology-related learning modules for a variety of audiences.

The partnership was first developed to develop a scholars program for selected faculty. For each of the last two years, a cohort of teaching nurses has participated in a face-to-face workshop and also completed a series of self-paced learning modules on Sakai. These faculty also submitted pre- and post-assessments in Sakai to quantify their learning. The scholars have gone on to incorporate gerontological content in their undergraduate course teaching.

The Hartford Center and the TLC have also developed a nursing honors program for students. Qualified students with an interest in gerontological content were matched with mentors, asked to participate in a seminar and directed to complete a series of self-paced modules on Sakai. Content was arranged around the organizing concepts of Acute Care, Chronic Care and Pathophysiology-Pharmacology.

Most recently, the Hartford Center and the TLC have partnered to create a Long Term Care Internship Program site hosted on Sakai. The objective of the program is to help prepare nurses for successful careers in the care of older adults. Content was developed by the partner school (University of Wisconsin, Madison) and OHSU faculty adapted the material to incorporate more interactive experiences into the modules, so that they would be more engaging for learners.

With these past and present projects the Hartford Center and the TLC have surely met the aim of preparing nurse leaders who are committed to improving the health and health care of older adults.