Moving the University of Maryland Nurse Anesthesia Program into the Top 10 Nationally

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Introduction
Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) are advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) licensed as independent practitioners. CRNAs practice both autonomously and in collaboration with a variety of health providers on the interprofessional team to deliver high-quality, holistic, evidence-based anesthesia and pain care services. CRNAs care for patients at all acuity levels across the lifespan in a variety of settings for procedures including, but not limited to, surgical, obstetrical, diagnostic, therapeutic, and pain management. The University of Maryland Nurse Anesthesia Program is presently ranked #17 but is striving to be in the top 10 as we continue to educate and develop nurses to become CRNAs.

Objectives
1) Prepare leaders to shape and influence the nursing profession and the health care environment
2) Leverage technology to enhance and expand education, research, and practice.

Materials and Methods
• Increase clinical sites to include at least one more inner city site that covers trauma, OB, cardiac, and Pediatrics (presently has 17 sites)
• Unique teaching styles: i.e. flipping the classroom, trigger films, simulation, non-traditional teaching strategies
• Focus on wellness among the students – assist and allow students to perform “wellness activities” to decrease their stress while in the program
• Become a DNP (doctor of nurse practice) nurse anesthesia program
• Encourage and allow students to participate in political activities and attend the Nurse Anesthesia Annual Conference
• 100% success board rate for DNP students and 100% job placement within one month of graduation
• Plan for students who have not started clinical to pair with students in the clinical arena to decrease fear and increase comfort in the operating room
• Change all tests/quizzes to a computer style that mirrors the style of the NAP board exam

Results

DNP Nurse Anesthesia Program
1st class admitted Summer 2014

Student Wellness

Unique Teaching Styles:
• flipping the classroom
• trigger films
• simulation
• non-traditional teaching strategies

Conclusion
There are 113 nurse anesthesia programs and the University of Maryland Nurse Anesthesia Program is well on their way to becoming one of the top ten. The program will be a viable choice for the potential advanced practice nurse as they collaborate with other healthcare providers to shape the profession of nursing and the health care environment.