

Title of Grant: Understanding Dementia: What Every Caregiver Should Know

SP2008 – 81W-FF

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Abstract:

This workshop provided a one-day workshop on Dementia and Care-Giving for health care faculty at VCCS institutions.

Actual Outcomes:

NRCC and Wytheville Community College (WCC) requested support to assist VCCS nursing faculty in updating their knowledge base about best practices in dealing with dementia. Although they were not the primary audience, health care providers from other agencies in the New River Valley and the Wytheville area were also invited.

The one-day workshop was held in April, 2008 on the NRCC campus. It focused on recent trends in treatment of dementia, an area of health care that has presented growing challenges to nursing and nursing educators. The activity was planned to be as cost-effective as possible by sharing information from a single highly qualified presenter with attendees from several institutions.

Other Colleges:

213 attended. This included community participants, VCCS nursing students and faculty as well as other schools of nursing. The following VCCS colleges were represented: BRCC, DSLCC, DCC, GCC, JSRCC, JTCC, LFCC, MECC, NVCC, PHCC, PDCCC, PVCC, RCC, SSVCC, SWVCC, TNCC, TCC, VHCC, VWCC, and WCC.

Discussion and Critique:

The workshop was highly successful and will be used as a model for future nursing-sponsored workshops. Participating faculty have benefitted from this experience, they will utilize it to provide up-to-date classroom instruction.

Evaluation:

The overall evaluation on the post-conference participant evaluation was "Very Good."

VCCS Benefits:

The grant helped nursing students and faculty at VCCS schools of nursing to better understand the role of the nurse in working with dementia patients.

Community caregivers, both professional and laypersons, had the opportunity to hear a national authority on this topic. The college was perceived in a positive light for providing this service.