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# Enhancing the Student Community Nursing Experience through Participation in a Domestic Medical Mission Immersion

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# Enhancing the SHU Student Community Nursing Experience through a Domestic Medical Mission Immersion

Sacred Heart University - Fairfield, CT  
College of Nursing

Cathryn Spears, SHU-S.N. and Dr. Susan Goncalves DNP, MS, RN-BC



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## Purpose

- To gain a greater understanding of community nursing experiences seen through nursing students' domestic medical mission immersion experience.
- Measurement of student perception of the medical mission increased their appreciation and knowledge of community nursing.

## Background

- Sacred Heart University aspires to promote innovative learning and teaching to students in order to care for entire communities (SHU Vision, 2018).
- On November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017, a domestic clinical immersion experience titled, "Medical Mission @ Home" sponsored by St. Vincent's Medical Center (part of Ascension Health ministry), occurred in Bridgeport, Connecticut.
- Medical Mission at Home is an event designed to deliver healthcare, social and support services to persons living in the local community who might not have access to these services.
- Services included: medical exams, vaccinations and flu shots, prescription counseling, coats, foot washings and podiatry services, mammography, behavioral health services, referrals to community providers, follow-up care, and more. All services are free and no insurance is required.

## Significance to Nursing

- It is important for student nurses to take advantage of domestic clinical immersion opportunities in order to grow and develop as culturally competent registered nurses.
- Community nursing is distinct and necessary in order to benefit the overall health of the public (Luthy et al., 2013).
- Domestic clinical immersion experiences can encourage student nurses to realize the needs of the community in which they may reside.

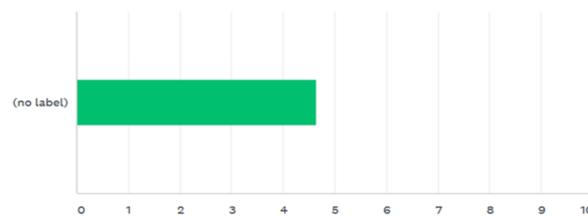
## Methods

- Sample: Sophomore, Junior, and Senior nursing students (n=49) recruited by the SHU Faith Community Nurse Program and Sacred Heart University Student Nurses' Association volunteered to participate in the Medical Mission @ Home.
- Data Collection: IRB approval for exemption status and anonymous nine question Survey Monkey sent via email
- Data Analysis: 26 responses (response rate of 53%), Descriptive data analyzed via survey monkey.

## Results

On a scale from 1-5 (1 being the lowest (strongly disagree) and 5 being the highest (strongly agree), Do you feel as though the Medical Mission @ Home has prepared you to be a better, more compassionate nurse towards those in the community?

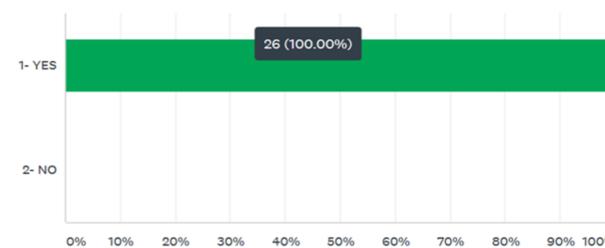
Answered: 26 Skipped: 0



	1- STRONGLY DISAGREE	2- DISAGREE	3- NEITHER AGREE OR DISAGREE	4- AGREE	5- STRONGLY AGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	34.62% 9	65.38% 17	26	4.65

Would you recommend this medical mission experience to others?

Answered: 26 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
1- YES	100.00% 26
2- NO	0.00% 0
TOTAL	26

## Conclusion

- Students gained valuable clinical community experience that possibly would not have been acquired had they not collaborated with the Faith Community Nurse Program and Ascension Health.



## Future Directions

- Encourage Sacred Heart University College of Nursing students to participate in a domestic clinical immersion experience at least once per semester in order to develop cultural competency in the community while promoting health and wellness

## Acknowledgement

- Special thanks are given to those who created, coordinated, and helped at The Medical Mission @ Home- for welcoming and allowing SHU Nursing Students to be involved in the experience!

References available as handouts