



SPOTLIGHT ON
Karen Wotring



GUIDANCE



MENTORING



MOTIVATION



SUPPORT



COLLABORATION

kwotring@lccc.edu

I have been teaching at LCCC in the Practical Nursing (PN) program since 2007 as a clinical and skills lab instructor. I have been a full-time instructor since 2015. The PN program is clock hour, which means all prescribed hours must be met. Between simulation and lecture, I can teach for many hours at a time (up to nine hours), several times a week, so I have lots of experience with student engagement! Also, I recently presented for FA Davis, publisher of Nursing books, and at the PAPNA conference on “Successfully Engaging LPN Students Remotely” with co-teacher Karen Clark. Even though you may not teach nursing, some of these activities could be used in all classrooms.

Student retention is an important outcome that is evaluated as part of the nursing accreditation. The Practical Nursing program is taught on the main campus and at the two sites. Therefore, I am familiar with the student populations and the issues at each of these campuses, and have student retention and problem-solving experience at each campus.

In addition, the Practical Nursing program has a diverse population of students with tremendous learning needs. Most often the Practical Nursing student has adverse childhood experiences (ACES) that make it a challenge for them to learn. It is important to work with the students to assist them to become successful through a variety of strategies including educational support services.

Nursing only administers multiple choice and select all that apply (SATA) exam questions and averages 580 questions each semester. In addition, twice I have written test questions for the national nursing licensure NCLEX exam and have written several hundred multiple choice and SATA questions for FA Davis Nursing book publisher. I would gladly help anyone with item writing for tests.

Case studies, role playing and simulation are other learning tools frequently used in nursing. Simulation does not need to involve the high fidelity mannequins and simulation rooms; it can be used in the classroom in a variety of ways. I have created case studies and simulation scenarios for the PN program. I have created case studies, classroom activities and animations for F. A. Davis’s Caring for Older Adults Holistically. Simulation in nursing has shown to promote critical thinking and critical judgment, skills beneficial to all disciplines. To support the tremendous equipment needs of the nursing program, I have written and co-written 10 Perkins grants, which were funded for items such as computers, Wi-Fi and mannequins.

I have been through the promotion process twice, and was successful the second time, so if you need help with promotion just reach out. As Robin Musselman says, “You should start preparing for promotion the day you are hired.”

Please do not hesitate to reach out and just talk—sometimes you just need someone to listen and I would gladly be that person!

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