



## A Regional Model of Interprofessional Education: The NECPA IPEC Experience

*Edward F. Foote, PharmD, Wilkes University*

and

The Northeastern/Central Pennsylvania Interprofessional Education Coalition (NECPA IPEC)



### BACKGROUND

- Wilkes University is a private, comprehensive university in northeastern Pennsylvania.
- In addition to a diverse range of undergraduate and graduate programs, the University offers the PharmD degree and multiple nursing degrees (RN-BSN, BSN, MSN, DNP). The pharmacy and nursing programs are housed within the Nesbitt College of Pharmacy and Nursing.
- Until recently, there was little meaningful interaction between the pharmacy and nursing programs and essentially no interactions between other health profession programs in our region.
- Since the University is not affiliated with an academic medical center and has only two health professional programs, advancing interprofessional education (IPE) at our University has required creativity and innovation.

### HISTORY OF THE NECPA IPEC

- The Northeastern/Central Pennsylvania Interprofessional Education Coalition (NECPA IPEC) was formed in 2008 as a means to meet the needs of IPE in our region.
- The mission of the NECPA IPEC is to provide vision and leadership to foster and support interprofessional education in health care. (Adopted 2010)
- The coalition currently consists of 11 universities and colleges in the northeastern/central part of the state. In addition, the NEPA AHEC is an active member.
- The coalition receives a small amount of funding from participating schools and universities. Most of the work is done by volunteers.
- Wilkes University has provided leadership to the NECPA IPEC since its inception.



### LEADERSHIP

Edward Foote (Wilkes University, Pharmacy), NECPA-IPEC Chair  
Karen Arscott (The Commonwealth Medical College (TCMC), Medicine)  
Ginny Clarke (Luzerne County Community College, Nursing)  
Diana Easton (King's College, Physician Assistant)  
Marian Farrell (University of Scranton, Nursing)  
Sheryl Goss (Misericordia University, Sonography)  
Diane Haleem (Marywood University, Nursing)  
John Szarek (TCMC, Pharmacology)  
Vera Walline (NEPA Area Health Education Center)  
Sharon Waters (Pennsylvania College of Technology, Dean)



### ACTIVITIES OF THE NECPA IPEC

#### COLLABORATIVE CARE SUMMIT

- The Collaborative Care Summit has been the centerpiece of activities of the NECPA IPEC. The summit, held annually since 2010, is designed to promote interprofessional interactions between health profession students in our region.
- On March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013, a record 700 students from 16 unique professions participated in the summit. All P3 pharmacy students are required to attend.
- The summit was held simultaneously at 7 different sites in 3 regions (Scranton, Wilkes-Barre and Williamsport).
- Program Overview:
  - A keynote presentation was intended to energize the participants and clarify how IPE is applied to the real healthcare environment.
  - The keynote was followed by a short-case video in which a standardized patient experiences an ischemic stroke.
  - Students then move into their assigned small interprofessional groups of 8-9 students. Facilitator are used to guide discussion of the case from presentation to discharge. Students are encouraged to communicate their personal experiences as it relates to the case, professional roles and responsibilities, and think about what the client and family are feeling during the experience.
  - Finally, students return to the large group for the closing summary and debrief.
- Program Evaluation.
  - Overall, 82% of learners and 99% of facilitators agreed or strongly agreed that the summit was effective.



#### FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

- A faculty development program entitled "Interprofessional Education in 2013: A Faculty Development Program" was held on May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013.
- Attended by 65 faculty representing 8 professions and 8 institutions.
- Program:
  - A Keynote address, entitled "Lessons Learned on the Journey towards Implementing Interprofessional Education" was delivered by Elizabeth Speakman, EdD, RN, Co-Director Jefferson IPE Center.
  - A Poster presentation session was offered during lunch and breaks.
  - An interprofessional lunch allowed participants to share ideas and make connections.
  - A series of scholarly peer reviewed podium presentation was presented by NECPA IPEC members.
  - A lecture entitled "Information Mastery, The Usefulness Equation and an Interprofessional Approach to Teaching" was delivered by Jonathan Ference, PharmD, Associate Professor at Wilkes University



#### SCHOLARSHIP

- Scholarly productivity is a marker of programmatic success as well as a "reward" for contributions to the IPE effort.
- Since 2011, members of the NECPA IPEC have published 6 peer reviewed articles or abstract and made 9 presentations at national meetings.
- Scholarly events are posted on our web site.

#### OTHER ACTIVITIES

- Joint sponsorship by TCMC and Wilkes Pharmacy for a one-year sabbatical during the 2012-2013 academic year.
- A new, free standing web page was launched in the fall of 2013.
- Lapel pins were created and used to promote IPE and the NECPA IPEC.
- A successful "early learner summit" for MD1, P1 and sophomore nursing students first offered in April 2013. Will continue as an annual program.
- A pilot IPE class using high fidelity simulation included nursing, medicine, physician assistant and social work ran in Spring 2013.
- A required MD 4 selective clerkship in IPE which will launch in Fall 2013.



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### FUTURE PLANS

- During academic year 2013-2014 a small number of grants will be offered by the NECPA IPEC to promote IPE. Potential projects include:
  - Development of a new case for the summit.
  - Development of interprofessional, cross institution, electives.
  - Development of curricular content for experiential learning.
- Continuation of the spring P1/M1/sophomore nursing student IPE event such that the same small groups have another interaction in the fall 2013.
- Expansion of a Wilkes pharmacy/nursing IPE lab on medication to include TCMC medical students (Spring 2013).

### CONCLUSION

- The NECPA IPEC has been successful in promoting IPE in our region.
- The SOP at Wilkes University has provided leadership to the NECPA and has significantly advanced IPE in our curriculum over the past few years.