

Five Denver School of Nursing Students Serve the Needs of Community

Students Provide 100 Hours of Health Care, Education, and Meal Service

DECEMBER 2, 2016 – DENVER, CO—Five Denver School of Nursing students, under the leadership of a DSN faculty member, completed a ten-day internship that partners with six organizations in Denver. The students include Cecily Fuller, Bethany Gresham, Emily Hamblin, Ayesha Hussain, and LeChele Mack, who worked with DSN faculty member and mental health care specialist, Toni Esparza, RN. At-risk youth, seniors, and homeless individuals received assessments, wound care, meals, and education, and the students got exposure and experience with populations that most need help in the community.

At the Denver Rescue Mission (<https://www.denverrescuemission.org/>), students received a tour to witness the housing, healthy meals, health care, and programs offered to the homeless. “There is so much offered here, including a health clinic where the homeless can receive vision exams and glasses, see a podiatrist, have dental procedures, and even have massage therapy”, said DSN student Bethany Gresham. As a result of the relationship established during this internship between DSN and Denver Rescue Mission, the health clinic has requested DSN students provide their ongoing volunteer needs.

Senior Support Services (<http://www.seniorsupportservices.org/>) is a day center for homeless people 55 years and older. DSN students served breakfast and engaged in communication with the homeless population there. DSN student Bethany Gresham was deeply affected by her interaction with a “population that is misunderstood”. Bethany recalls, “We would have great conversation and exchange of stories, but then have to watch the person pack up their knapsack to go find somewhere to sleep on the streets”. DSN students held a health fair at Senior Support Services that provided blood pressure screenings, blood glucose checks, basic wound care, and foot hygiene. They distributed 50 bags of socks, winter hats, band aids, petroleum jelly, antibiotic ointment, canned peaches, and water bottles to people at the center.

Students assisted Metro Caring (<http://www.metrocaring.org/>), a food pantry that meets people’s immediate need for food. Additionally, students worked with Colfax Community Network (<http://colfaxcommunitynetwork.org/>) to provide resources to impoverished families living in one bedroom motels, as well as working with the Bannock Youth Center (<https://www.voacolorado.org/gethelp-denvermetro-ryes-youth>) to provide resources and life skills to homeless youth, age 16-24.

Students completed a five-day clinical partnership at the Veterans Administration Hospital. Under the supervision of clinical faculty, the students worked in specialty clinics providing assessments and administering shots; in the infusion care clinic for chemotherapy medications; and in the emergency medicine department providing assessments and nursing interventions. Bethany Gresham recalls her VA clinical experience as life changing and supporting her aspiration toward a career in emergency nursing. She said “I got to see chest tubes, alcohol withdrawal seizures, a code, and found veins using an ultrasound”.

This service-learning internship was provided by the Global Health Perspectives (GHP) program, which gives DSN students the opportunity to serve the neediest populations in Denver. Students end the 100-hour internship with enhanced nursing and therapeutic communication skills, and an increased awareness of the health needs of inner-city populations. “I learned that regardless of our differences in background, hardship, education, culture, or age, compassion and caring transcends”, said DSN student Cecily Fuller. Healthcare education is provided to every person treated to promote GHP’s mission of education and sustainability.

About Denver School of Nursing (DSN)

Denver School of Nursing, 1401 19th St., Denver, is a private, post-secondary college that provides educational programs and training for nursing professionals. The college specializes in offering rigorous curricula, clinical site-based academic programs toward associate and bachelor degrees in nursing and distance-delivered academic programs toward a bachelor degree in nursing. DSN is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), (www.hlcommission.org), (800-621-7440). Its associate and baccalaureate programs are accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN), 3343 Peachtree Road NE, Suite 850, Atlanta, GA 30326 (404-975-5000). DSN is granted full approval for its associate and bachelors nursing programs by the Colorado State Board of Nursing. National Council of State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (SARA) approval is maintained through the Colorado Department of Higher Education. For more information, call 303-292-0015 or visit www.denverschoolofnursing.edu.