Faculty Report
International Learning in Lausanne, Switzerland July 2010

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Proposal title: Summer University 2010: SDSU School of Nursing and the University of Applied Sciences of Western Switzerland

Country/ies visited: Switzerland

Institution visited: HECV Sante and La Source, two schools of nursing that are part of University of Applied Sciences of Western Switzerland (HES-SO). They are located in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Dates of travel: July 1, 2010-July 31, 2010

Number of student participants:
  12 SDSU undergraduate nursing students traveled to Lausanne for this exchange. 51 nursing students from other universities and countries also participated including: Connell School of Nursing, Boston College; HECV Sante and La Source, University of Applied Sciences of Western Switzerland; School of Nursing, Humboldt State University; Alice Lee Center for Nursing Studies, National University of Singapore; and PSG College of Nursing, Coimbatore, India.

Previous IP proposals submitted and grants awarded (list titles, countries and dates): A Collaborative Program for Nursing Education and Research: SDSU School of Nursing and the University of Applied Sciences of Western Switzerland (HES-SO); Switzerland; April 27, 2009-May 5, 2009.

Have all required reports been submitted? Yes
Other funding for this activity available/applied for: **HES-SO provided a stipend for partial support of travel, provided housing, and support for some social activities for SDSU students and faculty.**

Proposal Abstract (75 word maximum):

Drs. Todero and Hatton have worked with faculty and administration from the University of Applied Sciences of Western Switzerland (HES-SO) since May 2008. In summer 2009, Swiss students and faculty traveled to SDSU and participated in educational and social activities throughout the month of July. In July 2010, 12 SDSU School of Nursing undergraduate students, accompanied by Drs. Todero and Hatton, traveled to Lausanne, Switzerland to attend *Summer University 2010* sponsored by HES-SO. The program included 51 other undergraduate nursing students representing: Canada, India, Singapore, Switzerland, and USA.

**Travel report:**

**I. Opening/overview of intentions/activity**

In May 2008, Dr. Catherine Todero, Director of the School of Nursing, and Dr. Diane Hatton met with representatives from the University of Applied Sciences Western Switzerland (HES-SO) and the Office of General Direction of Universities for Canton Vaud. Since that initial meeting held at SDSU, we have planned a collaborative program between our schools that included an exchange of nursing students and faculty beginning Summer 2009. Our mutual goals were to provide experiences for HES-SO and SDSU nursing students that included didactic work and clinical experiences working as an international team in multicultural environments. We also discussed possibilities for research projects that would involve collaboration among faculty from both schools. Since that time 12 HES-SO students and 2 faculty traveled to SDSU for 4 weeks during July 2009. During July 2010, as addressed in this travel report, 12 undergraduate nursing students and Drs. Todero and Hatton traveled to 2 schools of nursing in Switzerland: HECV Sante and La Source located in Lausanne. Students and faculty participated in lectures related to a variety of health topics including: the Swiss health care system and policies, evidence based nursing, assisted suicide, maltreatment of the elderly and adolescent mental health. Students also participated in a clinical immersion experience in a variety of healthcare settings. Both faculty and students traveled to the Federal Parliament in Bern and met with a parliamentary official interested in the nursing profession. Other travel included a trip to Geneva to tour and visit with officials at the World Health Organization and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

**II. In preparation for the trip abroad**

To prepare for the trip abroad, we corresponded with Swiss colleagues, reviewed their materials as well as information related to the Swiss healthcare system, participated in a teleconference regarding faculty research, and reviewed literature
related to Swiss nursing practice and education systems. Having previously visited the schools in Lausanne in 2009, we were already aware of their recognition by the Ministry of Education and their support from the Canton of Vaud. Both Swiss nursing schools share a curriculum and prepare undergraduates at the baccalaureate level. Our discussions have revealed that our schools share common nursing interests, such as patient simulation as an educational strategy, care of older adults, nursing science, and evidence based practice.

III. Upon arrival/specific activity

Over the last 2 years, we have developed collaborative relationships with the Directors, Deans, International Coordinators, and faculty at both HECV Sante and La Source. These same individuals welcomed both students and faculty on our arrival to Lausanne. The four week’s activities in Switzerland included didactic and clinical content as well as cultural activities, trips to major international organizations and the Federal Parliament.

*Week 1:* The initial 2 days included a welcoming ceremony and an overview of the Swiss healthcare system and characteristics of the 2 schools of nursing. On days 3-5, students participated in a clinical immersion at a variety of acute and chronic care facilities. Students found this experience interesting and afternoon integration sessions, consisting of small seminars with students representing each country, encouraged their discussion of their clinical observations. These seminars also initiated a dialogue across cultures and provided a means to view cultural differences in health, healthcare, and nursing practices.

*Week 2:* Students participated in daily lectures related to evidence based nursing, adolescent suicide, adolescent mental health, and alcohol use. A variety of faculty and outside experts delivered these lectures that included activities that encouraged student and visiting faculty engagement. Students also participated in a variety of cultural activities this week including a visit to The Olympic Museum operated by the International Olympic Committee in Lausanne. During Week 2, faculty from each university, including SDSU, also provided the group with an overview of their schools/colleges of nursing.

*Week 3:* Lectures during this week included topics related to the elderly, aging, assisted suicide, and end of life care. Students did a variety of class exercises to demonstrate the perspectives and cultural practices of their countries in relation to these topics. Students and faculty spent a day traveling to Bern to visit the Federal Parliament; another day we traveled to Geneva for a visit to the United Nations/World Health Organization and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

*Week 4:* Didactic content during this week included additional content related to the elderly and dependence. An expert in bioethics discussed dignity and students participated in discussions that highlighted their various cultures. This final week
concluded with student presentations. Students divided themselves into 8 groups representing the various countries. Groups addressed diverse topics such as nursing education, nursing shortage, drug policy/treatment, and healing touch. The presentations clearly reflected the students’ learning over the course of the month and their appreciation for the similarities and differences among their cultures with regard to health, healthcare, and nursing practice. In addition to the student presentations, each visiting faculty member presented concluding remarks to the group as did the Swiss faculty and administration. The day ended with a barbecue celebrating all the Summer University 2010 students: nursing, business administration, and engineering.

In addition to the above schedule, twice a week faculty participated in research seminars related to a variety of topics including: nursing education, nursing research and funding sources, women’s health, and care of older adults. Plans for future collaborations were addressed in these sessions.

IV. Conclusion, recommendation, and next step
The HES-SO schools of nursing are valuable for SDSU for several reasons:
- They have the resources to financially sustain the program and are committed to its success.
- They have established working agreements with SDSU and other CSU campus programs, including the School of Nursing at Humboldt State University.
- They have excellent faculty and resources that will benefit our students and faculty who travel to Switzerland for both learning and research.
- There is interest in collaborative research that would be beneficial to both students and faculty.
- They have a targeted interest in midwifery and simulation; two areas of strength for SDSU SON.

SDSU School of Nursing students demonstrated interest by applying for the program and attending the Summer University 2010 in Lausanne. SDSU nursing students commented on how the experience broadened their understanding of international nursing. We anticipate that these students will share their experiences with their peers and other faculty through scheduled formal presentations. This will help to disseminate their international nursing perspectives. Through this experience, they have developed a network of nursing student colleagues and several have corresponded since summer 2009 when the Swiss students visited the SDSU campus. As our graduates, these nursing students will have an international background that will serve them well in the increasingly global world of healthcare and nursing practice. The students will do a presentation to the faculty during the Fall 2010 semester to describe their experiences and to assist future planning for this three continent collaboration.

V. Additional Information
We appreciate the support from the Office of International Programs for this program. These international experiences assist us in preparing nursing leaders for the complexities of future practice in a global environment.

All information should be sent to The Office of International Programs via e mail:

oip@mail.sdsu.edu