**Innovation**

*An innovation indicates: a new idea or method; doing something altogether different; something that may be new to the particular nursing program or may be new to nursing education in general; a response to the needs of the community, trends in society, and the explosion of knowledge*

1. **Program Name:** The University of Texas at Arlington College of Nursing
2. **Type of Nursing Program:** Undergraduate (BSN)
3. **Narrative Description:**
   **Undergraduate Student Success Program** The original focus of the program, implemented in 2004, was to increase retention and graduation rates of nursing students from disadvantaged backgrounds (including racial and ethnic minorities underrepresented among registered nurses) by providing activities to support their success. As a more far-reaching need was identified, the program expanded to include all nursing students in the online and on campus programs. The program uses peer mentors, tutoring services and specialized faculty support to enhance the students' learning experiences. Students are referred to the Student Success Center by faculty or they may self-refer. The most common areas of student need include: study skills, time management, test-taking strategies, math, HESI comprehensive exam and course preparation, along with financial and psychosocial issues.

   In response to the success of this program and continued growth of the College of Nursing, 2 full-time and 1 part-time positions are dedicated to the center. The Center has five computers, a large conference room with learning resources that students can check out; a low fidelity mannequin that students can practice or review their basic nursing skills; and electronic equipment, which allows the faculty to communicate with distance sites.

4. **Effectiveness/Successes of the Innovations:**
   The Student Success Program has played an important part in our high graduation rates and NCLEX pass rates. NCLEX = 95.6%  Graduation Rates = 91.2%

6. **Plans for New Innovations:**
   With the launching of an online program in 2010, the Student Success Program has been reconceptualized to address the unique needs of those students. Year-round interventions include conference calls, test prep and study webinars, and one-on-one meetings.

   A course, Learning Professional Nursing and Life Skills (NURS 2232), was developed in fall 2012 to assist students who experience challenges with testing, time management, clinical practice, and/or professional behavior.

   A website is being developed that will offer information and resources that can be accessed by students from other computer locations.
   
   ![Website](http://www.uta.edu/nursing/student-success/coordinators)

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**Innovations:** Student Success Program