

Facilitating an Increase in the Number of Nurse Practitioner Preceptors by Improving Preceptor Preparedness

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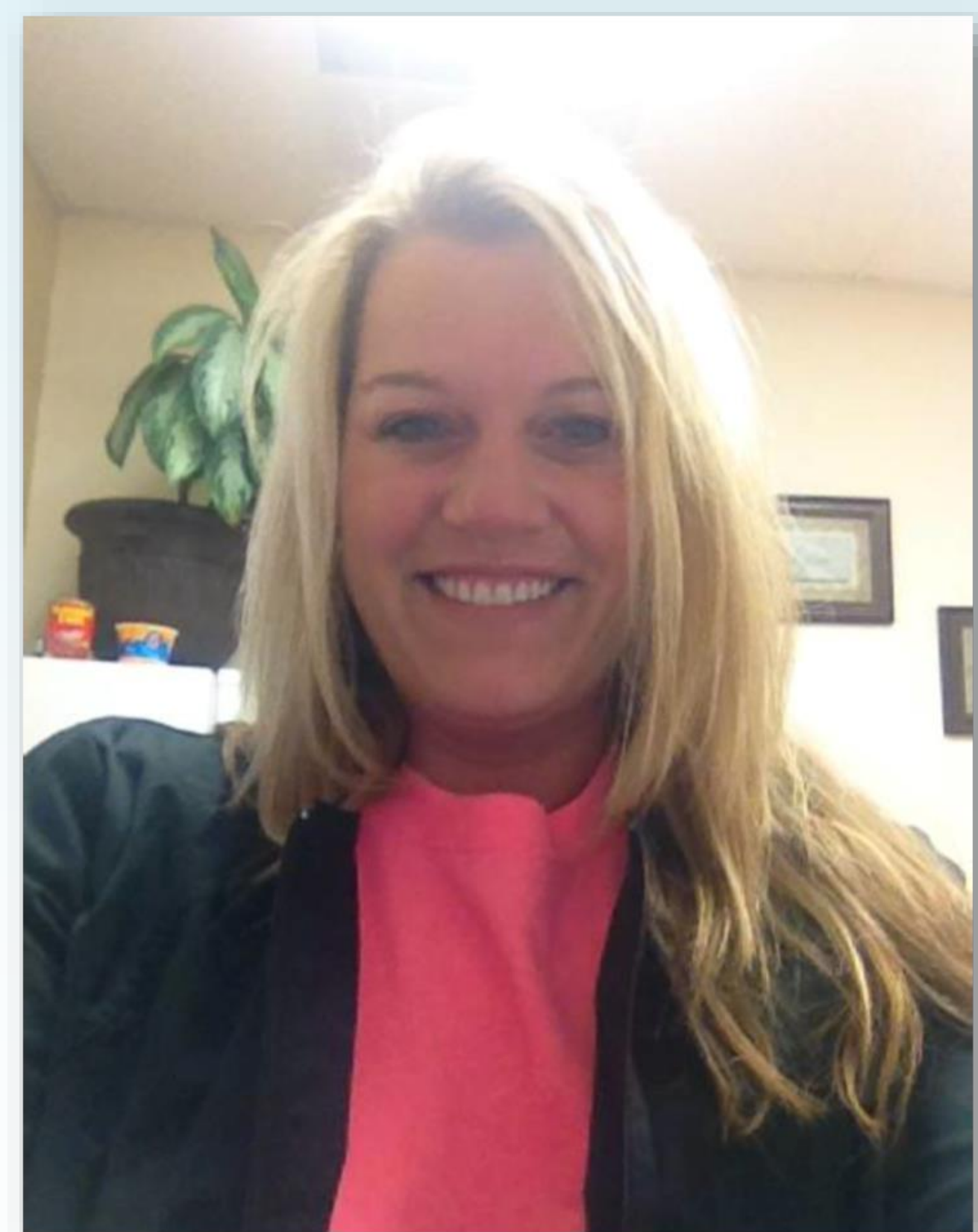
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Introduction

- The healthcare provider shortage has resulted in increased enrollments in nurse practitioner programs throughout the U.S.
- Traditionally, the clinical education of these students has occurred primarily in clinical settings with the guidance of a practicing nurse practitioner. There is currently a shortage of these preceptors.
- Research indicates part of the shortage may be attributed to hesitancy to precept due to feeling ill-prepared as a preceptor.

Purpose

- It was proposed that a focus group would verify concepts found in the literature.
- The creation of a webinar to better prepare preceptors will result in an increase in preceptors preparedness.



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Significance

- The shortage of nurse practitioner preceptors impacts the student's ability to obtain quality clinical education.
- Enrollment in nurse practitioner programs will decrease as available preceptors decrease.



Methods

- A focus group was held to confirm concepts found in the literature.
- Concepts gleaned from the literature and the focus group will guide development of a preparation webinar for preceptors.

Results

- The focus group did confirm the barriers found in the literature; nurse practitioners are hesitant to precept students because they feel ill-prepared.
- The focus group also expanded upon this known barrier. Participants described a need for education regarding adult learning theory and increased interaction and connection with the faculty of the university.

Discussion

- The shortage of preceptors for nurse practitioner students impacts completion of the nurse practitioner program.
- Creating a webinar using data from the focus group and literature will better prepare nurse practitioners to precept, thereby, resulting in an increase in the number of available preceptors.



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