

Exploring the Benefits of Cross-Cultural Collaborative Learning Projects: A Pilot Study.

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Overview

- ▶ How the project began
- ▶ Why the collaboration was created
- ▶ Leveraging resources
- ▶ Creating, funding, and running the project
- ▶ Preliminary outcomes



Background: How the project began

- ▶ Understanding the impact of digital teaching and learning
- ▶ Expanding our reach as campus communities
- ▶ Identifying gaps in student exposure and experience with cultural diversity



Purpose: why this project was created

- ▶ The intent of this project was to expose students to other cultures
- ▶ To broaden students' understanding of the impact of illness, social issues, and economy on the health of our local and global communities
- ▶ To provide students with an opportunity to learn about the role of occupational therapy in other parts of the world: educational preparedness, job roles, barriers and supports



Leveraging Resources

- ▶ Who we are:
 - ▶ University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences
 - ▶ European University of Cyprus
- ▶ Global Network of Education
 - ▶ A network of educational communities under one company
- ▶ Partnering and Making connections: Networking



Creating the project

- ▶ Where did we start?
 - ▶ Planning & Logistics
- ▶ What considerations did we make?
 - ▶ Student engagement & Impact
 - ▶ Language and time zone barriers
- ▶ How did we move forward?
 - ▶ Small pre-pilot to test connections, communication, and compatibility
 - ▶ Identifying technology to enhance communication and connectivity
 - ▶ Creating a pilot project, IRB, grant funding

The Pilot:

- ▶ Students were invited to meet each other via Facebook and asked to post a comment and introduce themselves
- ▶ The Cultural Awareness Scale for Occupational Therapy students was used to establish a baseline of awareness (pre-post)
- ▶ Students were placed into groups of 5-7 and dates and times were established for discussion
 - ▶ Used zoom and interpreter services
- ▶ After the final discussion group met, the students on each campus were brought together to debrief the experience

What did this look like for the students?



Facilitating Discussion

- ▶ Agenda for each session included the following
 - ▶ Introductions
 - ▶ Identification of the discussion topic with a brief summary of the perspective of each culture related to the topic (sessions were recorded)
 - ▶ Discussion facilitator asked each group to consider each of the following questions:
 - ▶ Describe how your culture views the vulnerable population you were assigned.
 - ▶ What barriers and supports exist for this population for general participation in everyday tasks?
 - ▶ Are there stigmas associated with the population? How might we help overcome these?
 - ▶ What is the role of OT in working with the population?
 - ▶ How might we best prepare you all as future practitioners when considering the needs of this population?
- ▶ Open discussion for interaction and summary



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Preliminary Outcomes

- ▶ Currently evaluating the surveys
- ▶ Student qualitative response: Enhancing and evolving perspectives
 - ▶ Relating
 - ▶ Understanding
 - ▶ Expanding
- ▶ We want more time to chat!



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Future Plans

- ▶ Continue to run the project with enhanced communication and more free form discussion
- ▶ Find ways to continue the communication and collaboration among students
- ▶ Expand the project: evaluate the potential to include other universities and student groups
- ▶ Focus on continuing to align the project with the mission and vision of both Universities as well as a focus on the mission, vision, and focus of WFOT



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