

Translating the DNP Degree Into Practice

Equal vs. Different? Does it Matter?

By Dr. Liriane Davis RNC MSN CNS NNP-BC DNP

Why did we pursue this specific degree?

- Terminal degree in nursing.
- Prestige/proudness of the profession.
- Reach academic equality with PhD prepared professors.
- Gain recognition and acceptance in higher educational circles.
- Had a full ride to get 'some' degree done.
- Be a better practitioner.
- Start own business.
- Be a better/more respected clinical instructor.

Did our vision change throughout the program?

- Repetitive classes in computer informatics.
- Mandatory religion classes throughout program.
- Cultural Competence: acceptance – eye opener!
- Camaraderie and cohesiveness built within cohorts
- Project implementation.
- Translational research.
- Writing for publication.
- Making the grade/Passing classes.
- Dean and Chair involvement.

Graduation: we are DNPs, now what?

- Attaining a high paying, high ranking tenure track faculty spot.
- Receiving career advancement recognition at current employer facility.
- Move into QI/managerial position – research based.
- Revamp tele-health.
- Resurface nursing repository for undergraduate admissions.
- Be marketable and 'wanted' in clinical and academic circles.
- Advancing in the clinical ladder.
- Successfully starting own business.
- Continue to promote veteran homeless support.
- Continue prophylactic antibiotic program for children's cancer treatment.

Acceptance & Goals vs. Resistance & Defeat.....

- Acquired clinical director position.
- Respectable in owning/managing medically fragile facility.
- Advanced to director position.
- Demoted from own clinical project.
- Denied DNP faculty position.
- "Promised" director job now unavailable – no explanation.
- Fired from director position – 'over-qualified'.
- Dismissed from homeless veteran initiative.

Pushing through adversity – making our own path.

- Digging deeper into goals & understanding our role.
- Degree comparison – PhD vs. DNP vs. other terminal degrees.
- Scouting out new career opportunities – making our own.
- Settling for nursing jobs.
- Networking with DNPs across the USA.
- Educating others on the pros/cons of a clinical practice terminal degree.
- Not a 'limiting' degree, but rather a powerful tool for lateral advancement.
- Attaining NP certification.
- Getting a PhD.

DNPs today: Empowered & Encouraged.

- Different, not less.
 - Clinical presence & educational experts.
 - Translational research.
 - Emotional support/guidance of others in same journey.
 - Improving patient care outcomes.
 - Building camaraderie within nursing and healthcare.
- ### Sustaining the degree for the future.
- Are we believers?
 - Molding what it means to be a DNP prepared nurse. Paving our way.
 - Networking across the USA, and worldwide?