



## Sustainability of the DNP Project: A look at deterring barriers and their linkage to practice

Colleen Manzetti<sup>1</sup>, Cheryl Hollema<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Monmouth University, <sup>2</sup>William Paterson University



### Background

- In 2006 the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Essentials were endorsed by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), and the Road to the DNP was established.
- An important component to the curriculum is preparing DNP graduates to bridge the gap between the discovery of new knowledge and the scholarship of translation, application, and integration of new knowledge in practice (AACN, 2006) (AACN, 2015).
- The White Paper discusses **sustainability** as an important component of the DNP project, however data identifying how sustainable these projects are after graduation is yet to be measured and reported.
- This prompted the development of a survey of DNP graduates to identify barriers to sustainability and their linkage to practice.

### Purpose

- Graduates of DNP Programs reflect on their implemented DNP project by identifying factors that can impede and/or facilitate the progression of the DNP Project beyond graduation.
- Identify a workable framework supporting the transition from implementation to practice.
- The **DNP Program Sustainability Assessment Tool** was adapted with permission.

### DNP Program Sustainability Assessment Tool

- 40 item DNP-PSAT Questions
  - 7 point Likert Scale
- 10 Demographic Questions
- 3 DNP Project status Questions

### Sustainability

- Sustainability is the ability to maintain programming and its benefits over time.
- When programing is lost over time benefits are diminished.
- Knowledge of critical factors that support sustainability are important for long term success.
- A framework on how to build capacity with stakeholder support is critical for project sustainability.
- Organization and community stakeholders should have buy in to support the project.
  - **Organization** includes all parent organizations or agencies in which the program is housed.
  - **Community** refers to the stakeholders who may benefit from or who may guide the program such as local residents, organizational leaders, decision-makers, etc.

### Framework for Sustainability

#### Evaluating the sustainability capacity of a Project using specific organizational and contextual factors which consist of 8 Domains:

- **Environmental Support**
  - economic and political climate
- **Funding Stability**
  - stable and diverse funding base
- **Partnerships**
  - strategic approach and partnerships across sectors
- **Organizational Capacity**
  - wide range of capabilities, knowledge, and resources
- **Program Evaluation**
  - keep your program on track with its goals and outcomes
- **Program Adaptation**
  - sustain the most effective components & their benefits
- **Communications**
  - support your program efforts in the long term
- **Strategic Planning**
  - glue that holds sustainability efforts together

### Methods

- One group, one time, data collection
- Convenience sampling
- Participants will be recruited from the Online DNP Community Blog/Blast with permission
- Electronic survey using Qualtrics
- Eligibility criteria includes able to read, write and understand English, 18 years of age or older, graduated from a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program, implemented their DNP Project, project was NOT an integrative or systematic review or a portfolio project.
- IRB Approved

### Results

- See Handout

### Selected References

Luke, Calhoun, Robichaux, Elliott and Moreland-Russell. (2014). Program Sustainability Assessment Tool v2, copyright 2013

American Association of Colleges of Nursing. (2015) The Doctor of Nursing Practice: Current Issues and Clarifying Recommendations Report from the Task Force on the Implementation of the DNP. Retrieved from: <http://www.aacnursing.org/Portals/42/DNP/DNP-Implementation.pdf>

#### Acknowledgement:

This tool is adapted from: the Program Sustainability Assessment Tool v2, copyright 2013, Washington University, St Louis, MO. All rights reserved. If you would like more information about the original framework or Program Sustainability Assessment Tool, visit <https://www.sustaintool.org>.

Contacts: Colleen Manzetti  
DNP, CNE, CNLCP  
[cmanzetti@monmouth.edu](mailto:cmanzetti@monmouth.edu)  
Cheryl Hollema, DNP, FNP, BC  
[hollemac@WPUNJ.edu](mailto:hollemac@WPUNJ.edu)