

Big Bend Community College

Community Focus Group for Nursing Program

The Big Bend Community College (BBCC) Board of Trustees has asked for community focus groups to determine how BBCC is perceived in its district communities. The emphasis of the focus groups has been the Board Ends Statements on Access, Student Achievement, and the BBCC Mission. In February, BBCC participated in the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission. A total of five individuals from the community and three from the accreditation committee participated in this focus groups.

SUMMARY

The purpose of this focus group was listening to recommendations the Nursing program may need to take to fulfilling the Accreditation process through National League for Nursing Accrediting Commissions (NLNAC). Through this process the NLNAC asked for community members to give testimony on how the Nursing program impacted them as individuals and the community.

Overall, the BBCC Nursing program has had a positive impact on the community. Patients of Samaritan Hospital and clinics have noticed the BBCC students' professionalism, good bedside manner, and technical abilities.

The foundation emphasized their abilities to relieve the programs financial burdens in several ways; purchasing Simulators (Sim Man and Sim Baby) the total cost for the simulators and training was \$60,000 and giving \$3,000 hiring bonuses. They have also helped the nursing students by offering scholarships, grants, and purchasing vaccinations. These vaccinations can cost from \$300 to \$500 per student. The foundation also has its annual fundraising activity to help bring in funds.

Andrew Bair, Samaritan Hospital Administrator recently visited the Community College and spoke highly of the Nursing program and the quality of students they get from the program. Also touching on that, out of all the layoffs at the hospital none of them were licensed nurses.

Tami from Washington State Division of Vocational Rehabilitation works with students with disabilities and she was very happy to hear about other resources available other than financial aid at BBCC.