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Transition into University: Nursing Students Perception of Belonging in a University Learning Environment

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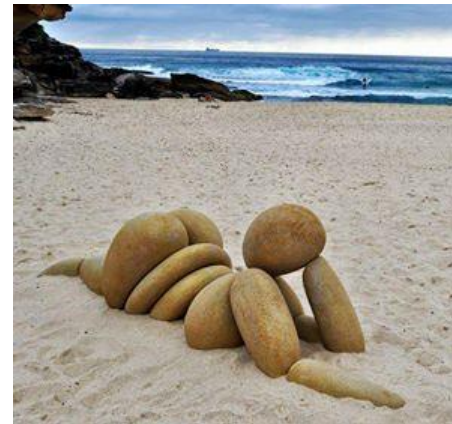
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A question to consider

- What is the global attrition rate in School of Nursing?
 - 10%?
 - 20%?
 - 30%
 - 40%?
 - 50%?



Factors influencing retention

- Academic
- Non-academic
- Culture and diversity
- Belonging → improved retention



Approaches to facilitate belonging

- Initiatives for Retention Intervention

- Implemented over a semester (13 weeks)
- Welcome/welcome back events
- Informal morning tea/lunch events
- Student nursing club BBQ

- Aim:

- To investigate the perception of belonging to the School of Nursing among nursing students at a regional Australian University.



Methods

- 6 campuses
- Students completed a cross-sectional survey 2 months following Initiatives for Retention Interventions
- Data were collected using the 24-item University Belonging Questionnaire (Slate)



Findings

- 201 participants
- Overall belonging mean score 70.5 (± 11.6) (maximum obtainable 96)
- Older students had higher scores for University Affiliation ($p=0.043$)
- Females significantly higher scores for Overall belonging ($p=0.015$) and University Affiliation than males ($p=0.004$)
- No gender differences in subscales relating to University Support and Faculty
- Overall Belonging scores significantly higher in 1st year students ($p=0.011$)



Initiatives for Retention impact

- Overall Belonging score significantly higher in students who participated in Initiatives for Retention activities (p=0.000)
- Sub-scale University Affiliation score significantly higher in students who participated in Initiatives for Retention activities (p=0.000)
- Sub-scale University Support score significantly higher in students who participated in Initiatives for Retention activities (p=0.000)
- Sub-scale Faculty score significantly higher in students who participated in Initiatives for Retention activities (p=0.000)

Implications

- Specific and targeted Initiatives for Retention can facilitate a greater sense of belonging in students
- Physical attendance rated highly by students as connecting and promoting a sense of belonging
- How can we engage and facilitate initiatives remotely?



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