

## **Abstract**

**Title:** Effect of service-learning on graduate nursing students and the community

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**Purposes:** Provider shortages, growing nurse practitioner (N.P.) student enrollment, eroding access to health insurance and preventative care, and desire to better prepare healthcare professionals of the future created a unique opportunity to develop a free health assessment clinic staffed by N.P. students as a service-learning requirement.

**Data sources:** Effects of the clinic were evaluated in 21 students using Community Campus Partnerships for Health and Center for Healthy Communities surveys. Community evaluation was measured through educational, referral, and financial impact.

**Conclusions:** Results showed increases in students' intent to volunteer ( $p=.0005$ ), cultural competence ( $p=.032$ ), and knowledge of healthcare issues ( $p=.0001-.014$ ). Clients ( $n= 176$ ) received over \$37,000 of care, reported 100% satisfaction with services, 95% better understand their health, and 53% plan to make healthy changes.

**Implications for practice:** Service-learning is an effective educational tool for graduate nursing students with a positive impact on the community.