MSN-FNP Students Work Make a Difference With the Rio Grande Valley Community

By Dr. Shirley Levenson, MSN-FNP Director

During the Spring 2017 semester, a number of our Master of Science in Nursing-Family Nurse Practitioner (MSN-FNP) majors spent several weeks with Texas State Lecturer and medical doctor, Dr. Bruce Leibert at the Valley Baptist Medical Center, Harlingen, Texas, as part of meeting their required clinical hours. Chantel Bent, Leah Bystrom, Zoe Cameron, Enriqueta Lopez, and Brenda Olmos were among those MSN-FNP students who participated.

The students’ day began when they had a general report session in the morning in a classroom-like setting within an outpatient clinic next to Valley Baptist View Hospital. There, Dr. Leibert presented anonymous patient cases to our students, as well as to first and second-year medical students and residents from other medical schools. Assignments were then made to the participating students. When I visited, the students and I saw patients across the lifespan at the St. Mission in Pharr, Texas, including toddlers, prenatal, adults and geriatric patients. The patients were very thankful for our outreach services, and we were pleased that we could be of service to their needs. MSN-FNP students Enriqueta Lopez and Leah Bystrom also traveled to Brownsville to provide healthcare to local residents at a mission clinic. The visit was covered by the Brownsville Herald newspaper (3/22/2017).

This trip to South Texas allowed clinical hours to be extended to our students and provided healthcare to patients in the Rio Grande Valley.

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