

9-1-2015

## Cultivating Knowledge and Skills in Policy and Advocacy

Hollie Sell  
*Winona State University*

Carli Wojcik  
*Winona State University*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://openriver.winona.edu/studentgrants2016>

---

### Recommended Citation

Sell, Hollie and Wojcik, Carli, "Cultivating Knowledge and Skills in Policy and Advocacy" (2015). *Student Research and Creative Projects 2015-2016*. 13.  
<https://openriver.winona.edu/studentgrants2016/13>

This Grant is brought to you for free and open access by the Grants & Sponsored Projects at OpenRiver. It has been accepted for inclusion in Student Research and Creative Projects 2015-2016 by an authorized administrator of OpenRiver. For more information, please contact [klarson@winona.edu](mailto:klarson@winona.edu).

# WINONA STATE UNIVERSITY UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH & CREATIVE PROJECTS FINAL REPORT

Electronically submit complete final report ten (10) days following completion of project to Grants & Sponsored Projects ([grants@winona.edu](mailto:grants@winona.edu)).  
Hover over fill-able fields for additional guideline and completion information.

Student Name: Hollie Sell  
Student Major: Nursing and Spanish  
Faculty Sponsor: Martha Scheckel  
Title of Project: Cultivating Knowledge and Skills in Policy and Advocacy

Student Email: [HSell11@winona.edu](mailto:HSell11@winona.edu)

Faculty Sponsor Email: [MScheckel@winona.edu](mailto:MScheckel@winona.edu)

## Project Abstract:

On March 20-22 I attended the American Association of Colleges of Nursing Policy Summit in Washington DC. I went as a representative of Winona State University's nursing program along with another colleague from the Winona campus. The AACN Policy was an interactive and informative conference. It educated me in how to effectively advocate for my patient's at a higher level and use my professional platform to raise awareness about healthy policy issues.

The proposal consisted of three outcomes and a final project that are listed below.  
As a AACN Student Polict attendee I will:

- 1) Learn more about the systems level policies that are necessary to promote changes in health care policies
- 2) Identify what changes policy makers believe are needed in the areas of scope of practice for nurses, nursing education pathways, translating nursing research to practice, and developing healthcare policies.
- 3) Learn from government officials about the obstacles and restrictions they face when proposing a change in policy related to scope of practice for nurses, nursing education pathways, translating nursing research to practice, and developing healthcare policies

I met the first outcome through the eight focused content sessions throughout the 3 day conference. I was able to hear from 8 different speakers that consisted of everything from the Deputy Surgeon General, Sylvia Trent Adams, to the Associate Director of Government Affairs for the AACN, Lauren Inouye, to the Associate Director of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, Ralph Kohl. These sessions educated the attendees about systems level policies and how they've seen changes be brought about through their career and under their influence.

I met the second outcome on the second day when we were informed on three different policies that are currently being voted on at the systems level. We were educated about Title 8, a program that gives scholarships and funding to nursing students and colleges, funding for the National Institute of Nursing Research to promote more research that will translate into practice, and giving full practice authority to Advanced Practice Nurses within the Veteran Administration. These are three topics that are important within the nursing realm right now and will not only affect the way nurses practice but will expand the care we can give and impact the communities we reside in.

I met the third outcome through the the speakers at the conference who represented the military, the government, political acitivity committees, and representatives. Hearing their personal stories and examples from their every day lives on how difficult it can be to get a law passed or a policy changed was eye opening. They were all very passionate about their work and what they believed in but they didn't hold all the power. They did an amazing job of explaining how it falls upon all of us within our professions to be active and participate in government decisions in order to see change. Throughout the conference many of the other attendees spoke about their experiences in practice and were able to share real life examples of things they'd like to see changes and how things that have been changed in the past benefited them and their practice.

I lastly helped create a powerpoint to give in presentations to organizations such as Sigma Theta Tau Kappa Mu at Winona State, the Minnesota Student Nursing Association at the Rochester campus, and to my cohort on the Rochester campus as well. It is attached to this report.

The student-authored final report **MUST** include each of the following (check boxes to verify inclusion of each component):

- This report form, fully completed (page 1 of this form)
- A copy of the project end product, appropriate to the standards of the discipline

Date:

4/4/16

Date:

4.1.16

Applicant Signature:

Hollie A Sell

Faculty Sponsor Signature:

Martha Scheckel

Submit complete reports electronically to Grants & Sponsored Projects ([grants@winona.edu](mailto:grants@winona.edu)).

A deans' sub-committee makes decisions on Undergraduate Student Research & Creative Projects proposals.

Note that a copy of the project end product will be forwarded to Krueger Library for archival purposes.

## **Project End Product**

Carli Wojcik

The link below will open up the project end product, which is a Prezi presentation. This will be presented to multiple groups of nursing professionals, including the Term 4 students of the Winona State University (WSU) Nursing Program, the Kappa Mu Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International, and the Minnesota Student Nursing Association club of WSU.

Link to Prezi:

<https://prezi.com/cplsdvfkq0tf/student-policy-summit/#>

I would like to extend a special thank you to the Department of Nursing, Kappa Mu, MSNA, and WSU Grants and Sponsored Projects for the opportunity to attend the AACN Student Policy Summit. This was an incredible experience that would not have been possible without the assistance and support from these groups.

**WINONA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH & CREATIVE PROJECTS FINAL REPORT**

*Electronically submit complete final report ten (10) days following completion of project to Grants & Sponsored Projects (grants@winona.edu).  
Hover over fill-able fields for additional guideline and completion information.*

Student Name: Carli Wojcik Student Email: CWojcik11@winona.edu  
Student Major: Nursing  
Faculty Sponsor: Martha Scheckel Faculty Sponsor Email: MScheckel@winona.edu  
Title of Project: Cultivating Knowledge and Skills in Policy and Advocacy

**Project Abstract:**

I attended the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) Student Policy Summit as a representative of the Winona State University Nursing Program. The AACN Student Policy Summit is an innovative event that has positively influenced my ability to make a difference, not only in my final months as a nursing student, but also in my future career as a nurse. The Student Policy Summit has enhanced my understanding of the federal policy process and improved my ability to act as an advocate for my clients, my community, and my profession.

The proposal consisted of five outcomes, which are listed below.

As a WSU nursing student attendee, I will:

1. Become a stimulus for inspiring current and future nursing students to become advocates
2. I will learn about the policy making process and ways to engage in advocacy at a systems level
3. I will pass policy making and advocacy knowledge on to current students and nurses
4. The AACN Policy Summit will teach me how to answer the question of, "How can nurses make a difference?"
5. I will create a report-back project that I will use as a basis for developing the presentations that I will give to nursing students and Kappa Mu members.

I met the first outcome as the Student Policy Summit opened my eyes to a wide scope of topics concerning policy and advocacy as a healthcare professional. This newfound knowledge was enlightening and it's important that it be shared with other nursing professionals. In order to do that (and meet the third outcome), a presentation will be given to multiple groups of nursing professionals, including the Term 4 students of the Winona State University (WSU) Nursing Program, the Kappa Mu Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International, and the Minnesota Student Nursing Association club of WSU.


I met the second outcome through listening to the multiple speakers at the Student Policy Summit and then engaging in discussion with my colleagues. The United States Deputy Surgeon General, the Director of the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, and the Director of the National Institute of Nursing Research were just a few of the speakers we had the privilege of hearing from. Their expertise on the topics and passion for nursing policy and advocacy were overwhelming and have changed the way I view the nursing profession. My idea of nursing now goes beyond the bedside, and even beyond the hospital. Policy and advocacy at a systems level affect every aspect of nursing, and I will forever be involved in that process from now on. This starts by being part of professional nursing organizations, such as the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN).

I met the fourth outcome through listening to the speakers and engaging in discussion with my colleagues. Multiple speakers emphasized that nursing is the most trusted and respected profession and has been for many years. Along with that, nurses make up the largest healthcare profession. We, as nurses, have great potential to make a difference because people trust us and will listen to us. The Student Policy Summit taught me that in order to be heard, it is important that nurses join professional organizations. When hundreds of nurses come together to advocate, it cannot be ignored. I saw this come to life as we made visits to Capitol Hill. Hundreds of nursing students and deans of nursing schools from across the nation arrived at Capitol Hill to meet with members of congress. Each and every one of us had pleasant experiences and we were well accepted by the individuals we met with. The members of congress and their staff were happy to hear from nursing professionals. The Student Policy Summit has better equipped me to make a difference as I move forward in my nursing career.


The fifth outcome has been completed in the form of a Prezi presentation and is attached to this report as the project end product. I am eager to share my newfound knowledge with other nursing professionals with hopes that together we can come together to evoke positive change through policy and advocacy.

The student-authored final report **MUST** include each of the following (check boxes to verify inclusion of each component):

- This report form, fully completed (page 1 of this form)
- A copy of the project end product, appropriate to the standards of the discipline

Applicant Signature: 

Date:

Faculty Sponsor Signature: 

Date:

Submit complete reports electronically to Grants & Sponsored Projects (grants@winona.edu).

A deans' sub-committee makes decisions on Undergraduate Student Research & Creative Projects proposals.

Note that a copy of the project end product will be forwarded to Krueger Library for archival purposes.