Applying Complexity Science as a DNP Quantum Leader

Abstract
As Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) students and graduates begin to apply new knowledge in real-life situations, they are transforming their organizations. The impact of DNP projects is noted by measurable outcomes in diverse settings. This article presents 4 unique clinical/organizational examples of DNP projects. The authors have identified an application of complexity science and leadership theory in their practice changes. In addition, they share their thoughts and feelings as emerging leaders.

Discussion guide for faculty:

1. Most DNP programs were designed to support traditional healthcare system leaders. Nurse leaders from non-traditional practice settings are seeking DNP degrees. How do faculty in your program support non-traditional leadership students in advancing their leadership competencies? What are the unique challenges in meeting the AACN DNP Essentials?

2. What strategies are faculty using to support the non-traditional leaders in DNP programs? How can the program and project guidelines be modified to encourage innovative projects outside of the traditional healthcare system?

3. How can faculty use these innovative projects with DNP students seeking to impact healthcare outside of provider systems?