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Michele Loos, Clinical Assistant Professor of Nursing, CHHS travels to Netherlands

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UNH Global

Michele Loos

Clinical Assistant Professor of Nursing, CHHS - Netherlands

I am grateful to the Center for International Education and Global Engagement for support of my trip to the Netherlands in June of 2017. This grant allowed me to present as guest faculty at Rotterdam University of Applied Sciences, addressing the complexities of advance practice nursing in the US healthcare system in terms of care of those with complex, chronic, progressive illness and implications on outcomes, cost and quality. I also traveled to Rotterdam-Zevenkamp to spend a day in a Dutch nursing home, observing nursing practice and discussing the Dutch model of healthcare as compared to care of elders in the United States. Further, as a result of collaborative efforts between UNH and faculty at Rotterdam University of Applied Sciences, a Dutch nurse practitioner student traveled to New Hampshire this fall, spending a week observing nurse practitioner practice in several different settings and presenting "Breath Taking Decision:



Rotterdam University of Applied Sciences

Dyspnoea in an Elderly Patient". Efforts are ongoing to enhance future opportunities available to UNH nursing students to travel to the Netherlands and Dutch students to join the UNH nursing department as part of their international nursing experience.



Michele Loos (l.) and UNH nursing student Olivia Black (r.)


From Rotterdam, I traveled by train to the city of Deventer. I spent eight days in this city which is located approximately 100 kilometers east of Amsterdam. My purpose in Deventer was to participate in and supervise research related to the impact of "good neighbors" on Dutch elder residents' quality of life and well-being in a care home called Humanitas. The term "good neighbors" refers to volunteer college students who reside in the Dutch nursing home and provide 30+ hours of volunteer time per month in exchange for room and board. Interviews of the college students, elders, nursing and professional staff took place in collaboration with an undergraduate nursing student, Olivia


Black, who was undertaking research as part of an IROP initiative, of which I am the faculty mentor. Initial findings from this research, titled ***From Care Home to Community: The Impact of Connection on Dutch Elder Care and Well-being***, will be presented at the Eastern Nursing Research Society conference in April, 2018.


Another highlight of the trip was traveling to Den Haag with Sores Duman and Peter Daniels, both professional staff from Humanitas, as well as nursing student Olivia Black, to Nederlandse School voor Openbaar Bestuur to attend a presentation to a Taiwanese delegation on the Humanitas approach to elder care. The Dutch model of care offers insight into how the US can consider improving elder care.

Thank you to CIEGE for supporting my international travel, collaborative efforts with Dutch faculty, and research activities. The grant allowed me to deepen my knowledge of models of elder care and promote international collaboration.

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