

## **Bridging the Gap: From Bedside Practice to Clinical Teaching**

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### **Abstract**

More bedside nurses are showing their desire to teach in academic institutions. Clinical faculty should be prepared to coordinate and help in the transition of student learning from the classroom to the clinical setting. Standardized mentoring programs are available in a few schools for new full-time faculty and part-time clinical instructors to help them identify the possible resources to grow independently and facilitate their overall development as instructors. However, Hinderer et al. (2016) pointed out that “intentional mentoring” is one of the key elements to successfully transform an expert clinician into a nurse educator. A bridging-the-gap program will help to analyze the gaps and support educators with the necessary resources that can help them to develop the knowledge and skills essential for success in their role. In this study, quantitative information was captured through the use of a five-point Likert scale format. A 17-question electronic survey was administered through Survey Monkey to experienced and novice nursing clinical faculty that was created by the Nurse Leadership Institute group members. Questions focused on assessing attitudes, behaviors, resource accessibility, and clinical faculty topics for future education. A total of 33 responses were collected. The survey findings concluded that most schools do not provide mentorship program to the clinical instructors. However, most faculty identified the need for a formal or informal mentoring program by their associated schools to help them navigate the students’ learning needs and course curriculum.