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The Educational Challenge of Faculty Workforce Shortage in Radiologic Sciences: An Empirical Finding

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Abstract

In 2006, the Association of Educators in Imaging and Radiologic Sciences (AEIRS) commissioned a workforce committee to investigate the scope of educator workforce shortage in radiologic sciences. The primary purpose of the study was to provide empirical data on the demographic profile of radiologic science educators and to examine educators' perceptions of job satisfaction, and their intention for retirement. Seventy-five percent of educators surveyed are older than 45 years and 42% expressed interest in retiring within the next 10 years. Educators were found overall to be satisfied with their jobs. The greatest satisfaction rating was in the area of job security and inter-program cooperation, although salary ranked lowest in satisfaction among 11 indicators. It was evident from the study that planned retirement of educators and Program Directors were genuine concerns for many educators. Other concerns resonate around the additional education requirements imposed on Program Directors. It would appear that the radiologic sciences' educational corps is facing the challenge of a retiring cadre that has been predicted by the aging of the baby boomers. The implication, given the survey responses and comments, is that as a professional body, the emphasis of our professional discussions should focus on educator recruitment and contingency plans in case the needed recruitment does not come to fruition.

Integration of Tablet Computers and DyKnow into a Radiologic Science Curriculum

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Abstract

Distribution of information and methods of active learning have evolved in the classroom setting over time. Today many classrooms are taking on more of an electronic atmosphere. An electronic classroom can take on various formats, and this paper focuses on the use of tablet computers and specific software called DyKnow in a Radiologic Science course. A survey containing 12 Likert-scale questions and 6 open-ended questions was distributed to students in a "Principles of Radiographic Exposures" course in 2006, 2007, and 2008 to obtain their perceptions on the use of the software in the learning environment. Overall, positive feedback was received regarding the use of this teaching tool in the classroom, and many students would recommend its use to other students. Some of the larger outcomes from the survey were that the software was enjoyable for the students to use, helped in their understanding of course content, increased their attentiveness in class, and also enhanced their interaction with the instructor.

Considerations for Higher Education Choices in the Radiologic Sciences

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Abstract

Radiography education delivery has evolved over the past 50 years, migrating from an on-the job training model to a more academic, degree-centered format. This literature review explores various factors that individuals need to evaluate when deciding on an educational path. The decision must be based on the reflection of the various value sets attributed to higher education. Perceptions of the value of education differ on two levels: when discussing the profession as a whole and when discussing the professional as an individual. While the professionals in these positions generally welcome the reasoning behind such ideas, issues such as additional cost, salary, and promotional gains often influence the individual decision concerning the chosen method of education. Findings conclude that there are tangible benefits such as financial, social, personal, and professional gain associated with education level. However, individuals need to base their educational decision on the benefits they deem most important that match their personal goals.