

# Evolving to meet the needs of the community

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In their classes, College of Nursing and Health Professions students often discuss textbook case scenarios and the myriad ways different health care disciplines can work together to impact patient care. Now, as part of a \$1.2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, students from different majors (Nursing, Dietetics, Social Work and Occupational Therapy Assistant) are collaborating outside of the classroom to care for real patients as part of an initiative, titled USI Interprofessional Collaborative Practice Model, that began in 2014.

"The goal is to teach students from different disciplines how to practice collaboratively as effective members of health care teams, while improving health care delivery," said Dr. Ryan Butler, project coordinator/data manager. "Upon completion of each semester, we found our students showed significant improvements in communication, leadership, roles and responsibilities, coordination of care and decision making."

 Teaching students to use this type of unique

 team-based approach to patient care resulted

 in USI receiving the first-ever Nexus Award

 from the National Center for Interprofessional

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After nursing students finished their clinical at SWIRCA & More (a nonprofit agency that enhances opportunities for area seniors to live independently), the nursing students and SWIRCA seniors formed a kazoo band.



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(Left to right) Madeline Lenker, OT student from Creighton University, Paul Fontana, Representative Charles Boustany, Danielle Keyser, president of the Louisiana OT Association, and Kyle Courtney and Megan Welder, both OT students at USI.

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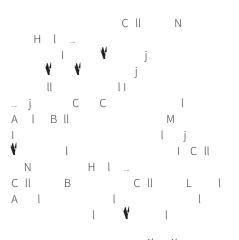
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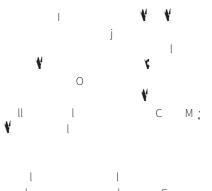
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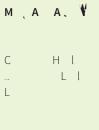
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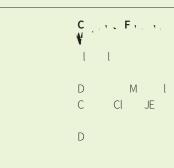




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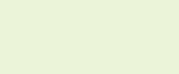
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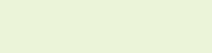


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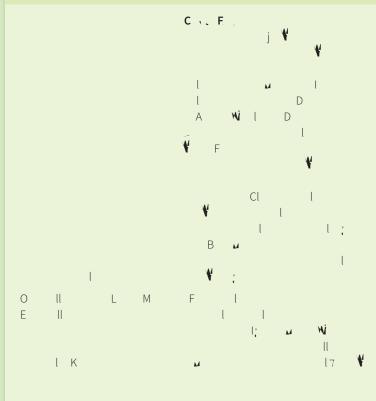






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### **ALUMNI NEWS**

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