

Presenter: Madison Penick

Session & Time: E-Poster

Room/Time: GUZ 113 & 114 / 3:30-4:30

Discipline: Nursing

Faculty Mentor: Andrea Boyle

Digital Portfolio URL: Senior in Professor Boyle's class presenting SDG on Zero Hunger and Nurse Leadership

Title: Nursing Leadership to Achieve Zero Hunger

Abstract:

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2, Zero Hunger, aims to end hunger, achieve food security, and improve nutrition worldwide. Although global in scope, this goal has direct relevance to nursing leadership, as food insecurity is a critical social determinant of health linked to chronic disease, poor wound healing, increased hospital readmissions, and overall poorer health outcomes. Nurse leaders play a pivotal role in addressing food insecurity through systems-based and equity-focused approaches.

In clinical practice, nurses can implement routine screening for food insecurity and collaborate with interdisciplinary teams to connect patients with community resources. Nurse leaders also influence organizational change by integrating nutrition-focused discharge planning, developing partnerships with food banks, and evaluating quality improvement data related to malnutrition and patient

outcomes. In community and public health settings, nurses advocate for policies that expand access to nutrition assistance programs and promote culturally responsive interventions for vulnerable populations.

Advancing Zero Hunger within nursing requires shifting from reactive care to proactive engagement with upstream determinants of health. Through collaborative, evidence-based leadership, nurses help transform food access into an essential component of holistic healthcare delivery, strengthening both individual patient outcomes and broader population health.