



# Symposium on Educational Excellence 2024

## Building strong preceptors across Oregon: An innovative educational approach to increase preceptor knowledge and confidence

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### Abstract

Applied practice experiences, including direct care hours, clinic hours, internships, and practicums, are often pre- or post-matriculation requirements for graduation, licensure, or certification in an individual's desired healthcare or public health field. For example, nursing and dental students can be required to complete a set number of hours of practice in care or clinical settings before licensure<sup>1, 2</sup>. Public health students can be required to produce deliverables and demonstrate competencies as a result of their practice experience, with required experience hours varying by program, prior to graduation<sup>3</sup>.

A preceptor guides the preceptee through their learning experience, including administrative functions, mentoring, orienting, teaching, providing feedback, and assessment of the preceptee's skills. Many studies published on preceptorships, mainly in nursing, have shown that positive preceptor experiences enhance learning and can influence an individual's decision to stay in their chosen nursing field<sup>1, 4</sup>. We can assume that strong preceptorships in other healthcare and public health fields have similar outcomes.

To meet the need for trained preceptors in healthcare and public health fields and enhance retention of future professionals in their chosen field, the Oregon ECHO Network (OEN) offers three ECHOs focused on increasing preceptor capacity.

Project ECHO® (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes), was first developed at the University of New Mexico and is a telelearning all-teach all-learn model used in 197 countries with 6,178 programs and over five million session attendances since 2003<sup>5</sup>. OEN is an Oregon-based resource for Project ECHO® and a project of the Oregon Rural Practice-based Research Network (ORPRN) at Oregon Health and Science University. Since 2018, OEN has offered 40 unique programs attended by 7,518 total participants from all counties across Oregon. Three of these programs focus on preceptorships:

1. AHEC (Oregon Area Health Education Centers) Clinical Experiential Teaching ECHO
2. Public Health Preceptor ECHO
3. Dental Preceptor ECHO

These ECHOs offer innovative methods for training healthcare and public health preceptors. Our completed preceptor ECHOs have shown to boost preceptor confidence and increase knowledge to better navigate preceptor responsibilities, including:

- Building trust with students
- Orienting students to practice settings
- Setting expectations for students' roles and responsibilities

Our ECHOs provide preceptors training they might not otherwise receive and contribute to strong in-person and virtual preceptorships. A novel approach used by our ECHOs includes encouraging participants to present cases to their fellow participants, where they share about obstacles or barriers in their preceptorships and receive feedback to overcome challenges during the many hours required by learning experiences.

#### Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

OEN's preceptor ECHOs focus efforts in rural Oregon. We recruit faculty to lead our ECHOs who have diverse personal and professional experiences. During sessions we offer closed captioning and accessibility guides along with additional accommodations on an individual basis.

#### Measurable Learning Objectives

By the end of this session, the audience will be able to:

1. Understand the benefits of the ECHO all-teach all-learn virtual learning format
2. Identify positive outcomes for preceptors from OEN's preceptor ECHOs
3. List practices taught in ECHO sessions that they can incorporate in their preceptorships

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