Background

- An emerging pedagogy in nursing education is the virtual community.
- The College of Nursing launched a virtual community known as The Neighborhood in 2006 to facilitate student-centered learning by providing context to nursing concepts through the lived experiences of characters.
- The stories are nested in a community setting allowing students to learn about and address health-related issues in the community.

Neighborhood Website Features

- Character Biographical background
- Weekly Story Updates
- Character photographs
- Video Vignettes
- Medical records
- Community Newspaper
- Community resource website

Current and Future Directions

- A 2-year study funded by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is currently underway, investigating the impact of virtual communities on Faculty Worklife and Student Engagement.
- Interprofessional Education (IPE) efforts at the Health Science Center will be based on an adaptation of The Neighborhood, focusing on domestic violence.
- Further research related to use of virtual communities in nursing education and interprofessional education are planned.