Not Caving into the Fear of Failure: The Pursuit of a Doctoral Degree

Tammy Webster, PhD, RT (R)(M)\(^1\), Betsy Becker, PT, DPT, PhD\(^1\), Faye Haggar, EdD\(^2\), Karen Honeycutt, PhD, MASCP, MLS(ASCP)SM\(^1\), Sarah McBrien, PhD\(^1\), Jill Skrabal, PhD, RD, LMNT, CDE\(^3\)
\(^1\)University of Nebraska Medical Center, College of Allied Health Professions; \(^2\)University of Nebraska Medical Center, College of Medicine; \(^3\)Nebraska Medicine; Omaha, NE

"These women were amazing peer mentors as I worked on my research. I am incredibly thankful to them for setting goals, celebrating successes, and sharing experiences. We have grown as scholars and friends."  
~ Quote from Group Member

Selected References

Components of a Successful Writing Group
- **Accountability**: Regular Meetings, Goal Setting, Progress Updates
- **Mutual Trust**: Positive Regard for One Another’s Work, Celebrations of Writing Milestones & Other, Career and Personal Successes
- **Ongoing Development**: Reference Tools & Library Services, Writing Mechanics, Turning the Dissertation into Publication, Life after a Doctoral Program, Deepen Interprofessional Network

May 2018
August 2018
December 2018
May 2019

Common Barriers to Pursuing a Terminal Academic Degree
- Balancing Personal and Professional Responsibilities
- Fear
- Low Self-efficacy
- Time Constraints
- Uncertainty
- Cost

Professional Network for Facilitating Success
Connections among support group women, doctoral committee members and guest speakers to the group

Individuals are placed nearest to those who share the most connections.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shape</th>
<th>Color</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Six Members</td>
<td>College of Allied Health Professions (red)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>College of Medicine (green)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Academic Affairs (teal)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>College of Education (orange)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>College of Dentistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>College of Agriculture Science &amp; Natural Resources (blue)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>College of Nursing (grey)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Size of the Marker
- The bigger the marker (node), the more important the role of the individual. The largest size represents members of the support group. The middle size are the doctoral committee members. The smallest size represents guest speakers to the group.

Selected References

Component of a Successful Writing Group

Balancing Personal and Professional Responsibilities
- Accountability
- Goal Setting
- Progress Updates

Mutual Trust
- Positive Regard for One Another’s Work
- Celebrations of Writing Milestones & Other
- Career and Personal Successes

Ongoing Development
- Reference Tools & Library Services
- Writing Mechanics
- Turning the Dissertation into Publication
- Life after a Doctoral Program
- Deepen Interprofessional Network

Selected References

Individuals are placed nearest to those who share the most connections.