

System for Digital Authentication and Auditing of Real-World Activity Participation

Students in various professional programs are encouraged and often required to participate in co-curricular events/activities that enable development of knowledge, expertise, and social skills essential for their professional growth. These activities form an integral part of academic training hence, it is essential for administrators to track and evaluate involvement of students in these activities/events. Usually, participation and evaluation of these real-world activities are managed by completion of specific forms by students, which are mostly paper-based. Although the paper-based method offers a system of documenting these student activities, the process has some significant drawbacks. Therefore, implementing a digital system that allows students and academic administrators to schedule events, report participation, and assess student participation in various activities, will be a significant improvement over the paper-based method.

Technology

Considering the requirements identified above, the inventors of this technology developed a digital system for authenticating and auditing of co-curricular experiences. This digital system will enable tracking participation and evaluation of students' co-curricular activities. The system combines event/activity management tools that integrate event information, events calendar, and reporting on student experiences with a simple web-based app installed on smart phones or tablets that capture student participation. Co-curricular data management also allows for seamless integration with an electronic portfolio used to track progress of students towards overall program goals.

Application

This digital system is applied to track and evaluate activities outside of the traditional classroom that contribute towards a student's academic training.

Advantages/Benefits

- The use of the online system will be more convenient and less error-prone than paper-based methods to collect, retrieve and analyze data regarding student participation in co-curricular activities. The digital tracking system is easily accessible online, thus reducing the probability of these errors.
- Evaluating students' overall training is a major component of auditing and accreditation of academic programs. This digital method will allow better compliance to and auditing of these activities associated with professional and personal development of students.
- This online system can be used by administrators for retrieving data for various reports; therefore, it will offer assistance in the institution's accreditation process.

Status of Development

- The system was implemented at NSU's College of Pharmacy during the Fall 2018 semester for students in the first, second, and third year of the program to record co-curricular experiences associated with the professional curriculum.
- Information gathered through this application for the Fall 2018 semester was used to generate a report on participation of students in qualified events and this report was applied to grading these students.
- The system was evaluated following implementation and modifications were made to improve performance.
- The system is currently being used during the Winter 2019 semester with the same student cohorts to capture co-curricular experiences.

Patent Status - US National Phase application filed on July 15, 2021.

Information on Inventors



Jolanta Czerwinska - Dr. Czerwinska serves as the Director of Educational Information Technology at NSU's College of Pharmacy. She has designed and developed multiple computer applications that are used by students, faculty, administrators and preceptors.



Graciela Armayor - Dr. Graciela Armayor is Director, Curriculum Development, and Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociobehavioral and Administrative Pharmacy at NSU's College of Pharmacy. Her research focuses on development and evaluation of instructional and assessment methods for health professions education.



Rochelle Nappi - Dr. Nappi is the Assistant Dean at the Palm Beach Regional Campus for NSU's College of Pharmacy (COP) where she oversees the Doctor of Pharmacy program. Her research interests include leadership development, mentoring, professionalism, co-curriculum, and communication across generations.



Robert McGory - Dr. Robb McGory is the Associate Dean, Professional Program at the NSU College of Pharmacy. He guides faculty efforts to create strong academic and experiential programs that lead to outstanding graduates. He works closely with the co-curriculum leadership group to evolve and document experiences that help students select a career pathway to match their interests and skills.



Jeffrey Jurkas - Mr. Jurkas is the Director of Student Affairs for the Fort Lauderdale Campus at NSU's College of Pharmacy. He oversees and advises all student organization leaders and their respective organizations. He is responsible for the overall approval of any student led events.

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