Title of Presentation:
Getting your Head in the Clouds: The Use of Cloud Technology to Enhance Student Success

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Emphasis of presentation:
Emerging Technology (cloud computing)

Institutional level targeted:
Universities, Four Year Institutions, and Community Colleges

Presentation Teaser / Abstract:
The cloud “a new approach”! Increasingly, higher education is utilizing cloud computing to provide a virtual set of computing resources that promote a student success.

Presentation Description and Goals:
(practical applications, describe the context, problem, approach, and results)
Educators are looking toward the cloud as a way to improve Information Technology (IT) performance to minimize faculty work load and maximize student success. To remain successful, higher education must be extremely agile and have the ability to maintain leading edge technology. The cloud provides a virtual set of computing resources that anyone can access via the Internet. Cloud-based infrastructures are operating right now, giving educators and students the ability to create documents and presentations which can be stored and shared with
one person or the entire class. Bookmarks, reading lists, assignments, research, web links, calendars, audio/visual files, contacts, announcements, and more can all be utilized from most devices that are connected to the internet.

Attendees of this presentation will learn about techniques used by one university utilizing cloud technology. The goals of this presentation are:

- Provide a hands-on approach to presenting cloud computing techniques.
- Presenters will provide a cloud for attendees to join and collaborate.
- Printed hand-outs will be provided.
- Enable educators to provide cloud services to students.
- Web-links, Microsoft Power point file, Adobe PDFs, and more will be shared via the cloud on this presentation.

Presenters will discuss private cloud computing and public cloud computing. This discussion will include topics around the cloud such as write to the cloud, read from the cloud, delete from the cloud, and technical specifications that would inhibit a successful interaction for educators and students.

Presenters will share information on how to create a plan prior to creating a cloud for students. Some considerations included in this plan are: storage limitations, costs, service level agreements, bandwidth limitations, administration/maintenance responsibilities, login security and authentication mechanisms, and reliability of vendor.

Presenters will have an open forum concerning possible weakness encountered by educators when creating and utilizing the cloud. Some of these concerns are: security of the data located within the cloud, including storage and recovery of data, student confidentiality, and patient confidentiality.

Presenters will discuss options available for any educators that need or wants more control over their data. This control can be achieved by using a third-party hosted service such as Amazon’s Elastic Compute Cloud (EC2) or Simple Storage Service (S3).
In conclusion, these presenters are nursing instructors with little or no technology experience who have successfully created and implemented their own cloud to promote their nursing students success.