1. Primary presenter information and curriculum vitae or short biographical sketch:

Dr. Jessica Nelson is Chair of the first completely online LPN to BS programs in the country at Indiana State University's School of Nursing. She completed her BS in Nursing and MS in Nursing Administration from Indiana State University as well as a Doctor of Nursing Practice from Chatham University in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. Dr. Nelson has teaching experience in both ASN, BS, and graduate level nursing coursework in both traditional campus and distance education settings. Her practice and teaching areas of interest include emergency, critical care and evidence-based nursing practice. Her research interests include telemedicine technologies, distance education for nursing students, ehealth/informatics, and rural disparities among a variety of patient populations as well as interventions to increase access to care in rural America. Prior to her venture into academia, Dr. Nelson coordinated Telehealth services for thousands of Veterans in her role as a nurse executive within in the Department of Veterans Affairs in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

2. Additional Presenter Information (if applicable): Name, title, institution and email.

N/A

3. Title of Presentation: Engaging Faculty and Students within Fully Online Asynchronous Academic Departments

4. Abstract for Program and Website: Presenter will discuss common barriers to implementing online programs including challenges of hiring distance faculty, communication breakdown between faculty and students, and issues with academic integrity. Best practices will be presented in order to help chairpersons overcome barriers to the online learning environment and engage both faculty and students with the use of innovation and inexpensive uses of telerobics, telecommunications software and enhancing their own universities learning platforms.

5. Keywords: Online learning, online faculty, telerobotics, best practices of online learning, technology

6. Presentation Topic Theme: Technology and Online Education

7. Target Audience: New, intermediate, experienced or all department chairs of online programming or those potentially seeking to transition from traditional classroom to an online learning platform.

8. Type of Presentation: best practice presentation

9. Objective(s) of the Presentation: Purpose of the session; what the audience can expect to gain from attending the session.

1. The learner will be will be able to describe potential barriers to the implementation of fully online courses and/or online programs.

2. The learner will be able to identify strategies to engage both faculty and students in the online environment and improve overall processes by using telerobtics, telecommuncations software, and the creation of policy and procedures specific to the online enviroment.

10. Description of the session (300-500 words):

Online nursing programs are arguably one of the most cutting edge modalities of emerging education. At this time, there are very few distance education programs in the United States that offer a licensed practical nurse (LPN) the opportunity to advance to the baccalaureate level. With the increased pressures within hospitals to obtain magnet status and the literature indicating that higher education levels of nursing staff result in better patient outcomes, it is more important than ever to offer methods of career advancement for existing LPN's to the registered nurse (RN) to BS education.

Addressing the call from the Institute of Medicine for 80% RN BS by 2020, the Sullivan Commission's call for a greater minority workforce in healthcare and community needs, Indiana State University sought to transition LPNs to RN BS program through an asynchronous fully online education pipeline that is currently offered in 37 states. Implementation strategies began with face to face traditional programming which later shifted as program needs expanded geographically. As programmatic needs changed, so did the modality of course offerings.

Now as one of the only online LPN to BS programs, barriers in both student and faculty engagement immerged including academic integrity, faculty and student miscommunication, and retaining faculty qualified to provide online teaching with diverse populations. The following presentation will provide academic chairpersons, directors and deans with professional tools and best practices in technology utilization through the use of telerobtics and telecommunication software to enhance learning and communication within fully online programs. This presentation also seeks to provide ways to identify and decrease academic integrity violations within the online setting and strategies to enhance the chairperson's role in policy and procedure development to uphold academic integrity. Additional ways to enhance successful online program deployment through retention of well qualified faculty and continuous online education training will also be discussed.