An interprofessional symposium was held to explore strategies to optimize family centered care, especially during challenging situations such as end-of-life care.

Medical literature abounds with works on the topic of delivering bad news. In this exercise, the participants were taught the SPIKES Protocol. A series of three videos were developed to depict the story of Mel Voight, a 55 year old man suffering from end stage lung cancer now in a persistent vegetative state. The videos portray the interaction of physicians, therapists, and nurses with the Voight family as they discuss end-of-life care.

A half day interprofessional symposium was held in which 215 students from Internal Medicine, nursing, PT, OT, social work, couples and family therapy, and the local seminary came together to learn about and discuss end-of-life care in both large group and small group formats.

Pre- and post-test surveys revealed an increased comfort level in dealing with end-of-life issues after this educational seminar.

Highlights of this educational experience include exposure to other medical professions and experience in family centered communication strategies. Barriers include identifying students who are at comparable levels of education, finding time in multiple curricula to implement the program, and identifying facilitators for the small group sessions. This program could be adapted for any school with students of multiple disciplines to encourage teamwork in patient care.