

Exploration and Practice of Integrating the Spirit of the Great Northern Wilderness into the Training Process of Basic Medical Graduate Students

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Abstract: Postgraduate education in basic medical sciences is the primary pathway for cultivating advanced scientific research talents in China's medical field. However, with the increasing demands of medical education, the limitations of traditional educational models have gradually emerged, somewhat restricting the formation of correct values among postgraduate students in basic medical sciences. The spirit of the Great Northern Wilderness, as a crucial component of the Chinese Communist Party's spiritual lineage, has now become a significant ideological and political element in modern teaching. By incorporating the spirit of the Great Northern Wilderness as an ideological and political element, teachers are encouraged to foster the spirit of hard work, courageous exploration, overall consideration, and selfless dedication among postgraduate students in basic medical sciences through improvements in classroom teaching methods, specialized teaching content, and situational teaching experiences. By integrating the ideological and political elements of the Great Northern Wilderness spirit into talent cultivation goals, requirements, and curriculum system construction during the training of postgraduate students in basic medical sciences at Jiamusi University, the aim is to cultivate students who can carry the spirit of hard work and courageous exploration into their future workplaces.

Keywords: Great Northern Wilderness spirit; Moral education; Basic medical sciences

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1. Background and specific connotation of the Great Northern Wilderness spirit

The Great Northern Wilderness spirit represents the spirit of hard work in facing difficulties and striving forward, the spirit of courageous exploration in being enterprising and daring to be the first, the spirit of considering the overall situation with a high standpoint and a broad mind, and the spirit of selfless dedication

without seeking rewards or being willing to sacrifice. The Great Northern Wilderness spirit, along with the Yan'an spirit and Daqing spirit, are precious spiritual treasures of the Chinese nation and important components of the great spirit of the Chinese Communist Party ^[1]. In September 2021, the Great Northern Wilderness spirit was included in the first batch of the Chinese Communists' spiritual lineage promoted by the Propaganda Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, ranking first among the "Four Spirits" of Longjiang. As a local historical culture, it has become an important resource tailored to local conditions and has gradually been enriched in the teaching materials of ideological and political courses in universities. In 2018, the Chairman of the CCP pointed out at the National Education Conference: "We should integrate moral education into all aspects of ideological and moral education, cultural knowledge education, and social practice education" ^[2]. The ideological consciousness, values, and moral orientation carried by the Great Northern Wilderness spirit are highly aligned with the great historical mission of cultivating talents who are comprehensively developed in "moral, intellectual, physical, aesthetic, and labor" education, bearing inherent consistency. Therefore, the university has taken the lead in integrating the "Great Northern Wilderness" spirit into moral education, launching teaching practices on September 1, 2021. The curriculum design combines domestic professional teaching requirements and practices over the past ten years while drawing on the teaching requirements of Peking University, developing the construction and practical education of the ideological and political curriculum system.

2. Problems encountered in the practice process

This batch of graduate students was born in the prosperous China of the new century so they have not experienced a hard life. Coupled with being the beloved children of their families, this has led them to often be self-centered and lack a spirit of dedication. With the advancement of technology, they receive complex information every day through the internet and other means. At the same time, the ideological and cultural infiltration of Western countries into China has led to increasingly complex and severe challenges to the dominant position of Marxism. Under the influence of these factors, their ideals and beliefs have become blurred, political convictions have become confused, and their sense of responsibility towards the country, society, and family has also weakened ^[3]. For example, some students show indifference to major events in national politics and social development. When dealing with the relationship between personal, social, and collective interests, they tend to favor personal needs, be self-centered, and advocate egoism. The prevailing trend of comparison in school ignores the actual situation of families, advocating brand names and pursuing high consumption. These behaviors reflect a lack of awareness of responsibility among students. Most importantly, their current understanding of the Great Northern Wilderness is still in a barren state. How to teach ideological and political courses well, and how to seamlessly connect the spirit of the Great Northern Wilderness with professional knowledge, so that ideological and political courses really penetrate their minds, is a topic that our school is exploring.

3. Integrating the spirit of the Great Northern Wilderness into student training

3.1. Incorporating elements of the Great Northern Wilderness spirit into talent cultivation goals

The spirit of the Great Northern Wilderness is summarized as "hard work, courageous exploration,

considering the overall situation, and selfless dedication.” In the new era, when the spirit of the Great Northern Wilderness is integrated into teaching, it has a new connotation ^[4]. For research-oriented basic medical graduate students, hard work is a significant advantage in overcoming various difficulties, risks, and challenges, and continuously moving toward victory. It is the spiritual outlook that contemporary youth should have, as courageous exploration is the lifeblood of the new era, and it is a powerful spiritual force for basic medical graduate students to dare to pursue a better life on the road of scientific research. Considering the overall situation can improve the sense of responsibility and mission of basic medical graduate students, guide them to establish lofty ideals, cultivate a sense of historical responsibility, and form a correct worldview. Selfless dedication can strengthen collectivist education, guide them to handle the relationship between personal and collective interests, love and care for the collective, and enhance their sense of responsibility and mission.

3.2. How to integrate the Great Northern Wilderness spirit into the curriculum system

Integrating the spirit of the Great Northern Wilderness into ideological and political education in universities is a systematic process that requires multi-factor, multi-measure, and multi-link coordination. It is necessary to grasp the fundamental goal of “what kind of people to cultivate, how to cultivate people, and for whom to cultivate people” and gather the strength of various departments to achieve educational effects. Firstly, it is important to understand the educational principles of the Great Northern Wilderness spirit. When conducting education on the Great Northern Wilderness spirit, teachers should have a pragmatic spirit and accurately and comprehensively understand the formation, connotation, function, and value of the Great Northern Wilderness spirit. They should also keep pace with the times, and combine the dedication, exploration, and struggle spirit of the Great Northern Wilderness with students’ learning and life based on the actual situation of students’ thoughts and lives, and the development background of the new era. Effective integration should be achieved in specific activities such as classroom teaching, social practice, and campus culture. To integrate the spirit of the Great Northern Wilderness into ideological and political education that fosters morality and cultivates talent, it is necessary to grasp students’ ideological dynamics and psychological needs, fully leverage subjective initiative, and stimulate students’ enthusiasm for participating in classroom teaching activities and campus cultural activities. A “two-way interaction” teaching method should be adopted to strengthen interaction and communication between teachers and students, deepening their understanding and emotional identification with the spirit of the Great Northern Wilderness ^[5].

4. Specific measures for curriculum implementation

4.1. Integrating the spirit of the Great Northern Wilderness into classrooms and conducting ideological and political theory teaching

Classroom teaching is the most basic and stable form of education. Infusing the spirit of the Great Northern Wilderness into classroom teaching is the primary way to effectively communicate its values. As the main role in teaching, teachers play a pivotal role throughout the entire process. Before teaching, teachers should comprehensively understand the overview of the Great Northern Wilderness, focusing on important events and historical milestones. They should develop a complete teaching plan that covers the origins of the Great Northern Wilderness, the connotations of its spirit, and events related to General Wang Zhen. Students, based on the teaching plan, should preview the content before class, expand their thinking by referring to

relevant articles and materials, and take notes on areas they are curious about for discussion in class. This approach can effectively mobilize students' initiative in learning. In class, teachers can pose questions based on historical events, guiding students to think and provide their answers^[6]. Through individual presentations, group discussions, and collective debates, students' abilities to analyze and solve problems are stimulated, their thinking skills in summarization and induction are honed, and their patriotic sentiments are cultivated.

4.2. Conducting practical teaching of ideological and political courses with the theme of the Great Northern Wilderness spirit

Teaching with the theme of the Great Northern Wilderness focuses on "experience", which differs from traditional practical teaching methods. Practical teaching of ideological and political courses themed around the Great Northern Wilderness should first present students with the background and formation process of the spirit. Through practical teaching based on this background, students can understand that the formation of the Great Northern Wilderness spirit is closely related to the arduous struggle of three generations of settlers who took root and cultivated the land, the realistic demand for national food security since the founding of New China, and the country's continuous exploration of an independent development path^[7].

According to the talent cultivation plan in higher education, the practical teaching component of ideological and political courses should be completed within the academic semester, rather than during vacations, and typically falls under the category of compulsory courses for all students. This allows for the full utilization of the educational resources provided by the collaboration between Jiamusi University and the Great Northern Wilderness group. The university organizes students to visit on-site teaching locations within the Great Northern Wilderness group, enabling them to immerse themselves in the glorious entrepreneurial history of the people of the Great Northern Wilderness and receive firsthand education and inspiration from its spirit. Considering the coverage of practical teaching and the coordination of schedules with other theoretical courses, the bases for practical teaching of ideological and political courses focusing on the Great Northern Wilderness spirit should primarily be located at farms belonging to the Great Northern Wilderness group in the surrounding areas of the university. The distribution of various branches and farms of the Great Northern Wilderness Group can adequately meet the practical teaching requirements of universities within Heilongjiang Province. For example, universities in Harbin can use the headquarters of the Great Northern Wilderness group and farms under the jurisdiction of the Harbin branch as practical bases, while universities in Qiqihar and Daqing can utilize agricultural and pastoral farms under the jurisdiction of the Qiqihar branch^[8]. Through this approach, students recognize that the spirit of the Great Northern Wilderness was formed in response to the needs of the country, the people, and the times, generation after generation. Practical teaching based on the formation background and history of the Great Northern Wilderness spirit promotes a deeper understanding of its connotations and essence among students, achieving the educational goals of practical teaching.

4.3. Guided by ideological and political courses, implementing the fundamental task of cultivating morality and talent

Innovative talent cultivation has always been the primary task of postgraduate education^[9]. For the postgraduate training system of basic medical sciences at the university, the university consistently emphasizes the equal importance of knowledge, ability, and character, building a talent cultivation system

that values both ability and character. Cultivating the character of morality and talent among postgraduate students in basic medical sciences cannot be separated from the guidance of excellent spirits. The connotation of the Great Northern Wilderness spirit is open, dynamic, and developing, and its significant leading role has never been outdated. The university leadership has decided to integrate the “Great Northern Wilderness” spirit into morality and talent education, allowing students to embody the spirit while cultivating their morality and talent, realizing self-worth in the new era.

Academic ethics is the “lifeblood” for research-oriented postgraduate students. Academic ethics education serves as the behavioral guidelines and norms for postgraduates engaged in academic activities. The university holds monthly academic lectures with the theme of “Cultivating Morality and Talent as the Fundamental Goal, Guided by the Connotation of the Great Northern Wilderness Spirit.” Additionally, the university fully utilizes new media and online education platforms to conduct thematic education on academic ethics and cultural activities for postgraduate students. The university establishes multi-dimensional integrity archives for postgraduates, including academic performance, research, and employment, strengthening the construction of the academic atmosphere, enhancing supervision systems, guiding postgraduates to establish correct life and values, fostering a healthy academic perspective, cultivating a spirit of scientific innovation, and creating a clean and upright academic environment.

5. Discussion

The integration of the Great Northern Wilderness spirit, morality, and talent education into ideological and political courses has gradually been implemented in various domestic universities. With the advancement of national deepening medical-education collaboration and ideological and political education reform, the gap between the university’s ideological and political education model and top universities in China is gradually narrowing^[10]. As the first school to integrate the Great Northern Wilderness spirit into morality and talent education, the university has gradually improved and matured its integrated curriculum reform over two years, yielding remarkable results. The university has accumulated valuable experience in theoretical exploration, system establishment, teaching practice, management, and evaluation reconstruction. Drawing on the successful experiences of domestic universities and considering the location in the Northeast region with a significant number of students from the three northeastern provinces, the university has unique advantages for teaching. The university has established a new theoretical system, internship courses, integrated courses, and other methods. Following the model of conducting theoretical courses with the theme of the Great Northern Wilderness spirit, practical courses with the same theme, and integrating morality and talent education into ideological and political courses, the university conveys the connotation of the Great Northern Wilderness spirit to the students.

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