

GERONTOLOGY NURSING PROJECT

The NDSU Department of Nursing and Dakota Medical Foundation have been awarded a two-year, \$250,000 grant from Partners Investing in Nursing's Future to address nursing workforce shortages specific to gerontology in North Dakota. Dakota Medical Foundation also is providing \$250,000 in match funding for the project. Nine grants were received nationwide. "We need nurses to care for the elderly as they age – especially with the baby boomers aging, there's going to be a high demand," states Dr. Loretta Heuer, professor and project director. Partners Investing in Nursing's Future, a program led by the Robert Wood Johnson and Northwest Health Foundations, is a unique national initiative to help find innovative ways to create an adequate nursing workforce appropriate in size and equipped with the specific skills necessary to meet the changing demands of the 21st century patient population.

CONSORTIUM PARTNERS

- Dakota Medical Foundation
- North Dakota State University
- NDSU Extension
- University of Mary
- Sitting Bull College
- Jamestown College
- Minot State University
- Williston State College
- Bismarck State College
- Dakota College Bottineau
- University of North Dakota
- Dickinson State University
- Lake Region State College
- ND State College of Science
- United Tribes Technical College
- Fort Berthold Community College
- Medcenter One College of Nursing
- Cankdeska Cikana Community College
- ND Board of Nursing
- ND Center for Nursing
- ND Nurses Association
- ND Hospital Association
- ND Department of Health
- ND Home Care Association
- ND Mental Health of America
- ND Department of Commerce
- ND Long Term Care Association
- ND Department of Human Services
- ND Area Health Education Center (AHEC)
- ND Department of Career & Technical Education
- National Assoc. Directors Of Nursing Administration
- Community HealthCare Association of the Dakotas
- Bismarck Public Schools-Health Careers Academy
- Office for the Elimination of Health Disparities
- LaMoure County Health Department
- Dakota Nursing Program
- SIA Marketing & Insurance
- Migrant Health Services Inc.
- Elim Rehab and Care Center
- Good Samaritan Society—Mott
- Sanford Health, Fargo
- Howe Enterprises
- Bethany Homes
- ND AARP

ND Partners in Nursing (PIN) Gerontology Consortium Project



The North Dakota Partners in Nursing (PIN) Gerontology Consortium Project was established to enhance the quality of care of older adults by improving access to a well-prepared and adequate gerontology nursing workforce necessary to meet their needs.



Need...

"North Dakota is one of the most rural and frontier areas of the United States, and the state's aging population presents a significant challenge to our health care workforce," said the project director Dr. Loretta Heuer. The changing patient demographics make the recruitment and retention of gerontological health care professionals essential. According to Heuer, an additional 1,700 nurses who specialize in gerontology will be needed to take care of older adults in the state

- North Dakota has one of the highest proportion of residents over the age of 85 in the nation. They are the fastest growing age group in the state.
- Life expectancy is rising at rates that call for the proper preparation of nurses.

To compound the problem...

- Few nurses are trained in the provision of geriatric care and too few choose to practice in the area of gerontology.
- Healthcare workers often do not choose to live and practice in rural areas.
- The ND nursing workforce will fall far short of what will be needed to provide the necessary care for an increasing aging population.



Above: Elizabeth Ugelstad and Louise R. Crosby

What Gerontology Nurses do...

Gerontology nurses address physical, psychological, social, cultural, and family concerns as well as promote health and emphasize successful aging across the continuum of care settings. Gerontology nurses fill needed roles in education, research, policy, leadership and other

Summer Nurse Camp Edventure Participants



Goals....

1. Nursing students, faculty and current practicing nurses will have access to the best possible gerontology nursing education.
2. Younger people and those seeking second careers will have a positive image of gerontology nursing.
3. High schools students, especially rural and diverse students, will be motivated and prepared to pursue a career in nursing and be interested in caring for older adults.
4. The Partners in Nursing Gerontology Consortium and its activities will be sustained beyond the grant timeframe.

Current Activities

Education

- Provided a financial stipend to 9 faculty members from 7 ND Schools of Nursing to attend the Faculty Learning About Geriatrics (FLAG) Program, which doubles the number of FLAG-trained faculty in the state.

Results: The feedback from faculty members has been very positive. One faculty member commented "The FLAG training was absolutely

awesome, I'm just bubbling with new ideas and have tons of resources." A survey on the value and impact of the training will be conducted soon.

- Nine faculty and students from NDSU participated in a *Students Investing in Nursing-Geriatrics* event sponsored by the Minnesota PIN Project.
Results: The evaluations reported a highlight for many of the attendees was the session on "Wisdom and Reflections about Aging".
- Presented on gerontology nursing at the Nursing Student Association of ND Convention.
Results: Evaluations indicated students had a greater understanding of the personal rewards associated with and the clinical skills required to work in gerontological nursing.

Positive Image

- Videos are being developed to promote positive aspects of nursing (e.g. job satisfaction, lifelong service, and career opportunities). The videos will feature nurses from a variety of settings across North Dakota.

Recruitment

- Conducted a *Summer Nurse Camp Edventure* for 12 rural ND High School students.
Results: Overall comments from students regarding their experiences at the Summer Nurse Camp were overwhelmingly positive. One student said "I had a great time here - I would recommend this camp to other people (who) are wanting to or thinking about going into nursing."
- Sponsored an educational event for over 30 area 4th graders, *Adventures in Nursing*, along with the NDSU Nursing Student Association.
Results: Evaluations indicated nearly 75% of students said their interest in nursing changed "lots" or "very much" after attending the event.

Sustainability

There is a strong commitment among Consortium partners to continue the work of the PIN project, fully understanding the great need for nurses who are adequately prepared to care for our state's rapidly aging population. The Consortium partners and Executive Council are actively engaged in the sustainability planning process.

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ND PIN Website: www.ndsu.edu/pin

National PIN Website: www.partnersinnursing.org