

PIN CONNECTION

An Update from ND Partners in Nursing Gerontology Consortium Project



**Inaugural
Edition**

The mission of the ND Partners in Nursing (PIN) project is to improve access to healthcare by increasing the gerontology nursing workforce in the state.

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 the high demand," states Dr. Loretta Heuer, associate dean 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.

***Below:** Louise R. Crosby with nursing students Sharon WhiteBear, and Elizabeth Ugelstad*



GOALS

The funding will support the North Dakota Partners in Nursing Gerontology Consortium Project, which has three significant goals:

- ✚ Develop a state model for gerontology in nursing education;
- ✚ Enhance the image of the gerontology practice environment, and
- ✚ To assist in community recruitment and retention efforts by increasing awareness and educational opportunities for rural and diverse high school students, with a special focus on American Indian students and Latino students.

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 Dr. Heuer. The fastest growing age group in North Dakota is people 85 years and older. As a result, North Dakota ranks first nationally in the proportion of residents 85 years of age and older. 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. “We are excited to be part of this national program that shares lessons learned and can help ensure that we have the nurses and resources needed to keep our families and our communities safe and healthy,” said Dr. Grandbois.

PARTNERSHIP

North Dakota is a rural state with a history of building networks and partnerships to gain scale and efficiency. The North Dakota Partners in Nursing Gerontology Consortium Project is partnering with state agencies, businesses, nursing schools, professional associations, high schools, health care providers and other parties to address the long-term care workforce shortages in the state.

The Consortium is a dynamic group that will evolve and grow as the work of the project unfolds. Members of the Consortium will meet regularly and be actively involved by sharing their time and expertise to assure the overall goals and objectives are achieved. If you are interested in participating in the Consortium, please contact the Project Coordinator.

*“If you want to go fast, go alone.
If you want to go far, go together.”*
-An African Proverb

FAST FACTS

The Institute of Medicine (2005) noted challenges related to the preparation of a geriatric workforce due to:

- ✚ Lack of faculty
- ✚ Inconsistent curricula
- ✚ Few training opportunities

Aging Facts in North Dakota:

- ✚ ND is one of the most rural & frontier areas in the US.
- ✚ Half of the counties have a population under 5,000.
- ✚ Population density is 9.3 people per square mile; US is 79.6 per square mile.
- ✚ In 2000 18.5% of ND’s residents were age 60 & older.
- ✚ 2010 total ND population – 672,591; of which 144,133 or 22% will be age 60 and older.
- ✚ By 2030, the older population in the state is projected to be over 30 percent.
- ✚ ND has the highest proportion of residents over age 85 in the nation.
- ✚ Chronic healthcare needs and functional disabilities, as well the need for long-term care of Native American residents of ND must be addressed.

Few nurses choose to practice in the area of gerontology:

- ✚ Few nurses are trained in the provision of geriatric care and too few choose to practice in the area of gerontology.
- ✚ To compound the problem, 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.
- ✚ Over 1,700 additional nurses who specialize in gerontology nursing will be needed over the next 7 years to provide care for North Dakota’s aging citizens.

Below: Elizabeth Ugelstad and Louise R. Crosby



Dr. Donna Grandbois Participates in American Indian & Tribal College Initiative

Dr. Grandbois is serving as a consultant at the University of Minnesota's Hartford Center of Geriatric Nursing Excellence Center. The center developed a Tribal College Initiative whereby they have been working with most of the Tribal Colleges nationally to help strengthen geriatric nursing. Faculty champions from Tribal College nursing programs exchange ideas with other members of the Upper Midwest Geriatric Nursing Education Alliance. They learn a geriatric content mapping strategy that identifies educational gaps and develop a plan for addressing them. Staff travel to tribal colleges and presentations by tribal nurses to Alliance members will help to assure that the geriatric nursing training is infused with native wisdom and addresses concerns specific to American Indian elders.



MEET THE TEAM

Jennifer Thompson

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She is the Development Director for Dakota Medical Foundation. She earned a B.A. in English and a Law degree from the University of North Dakota. She began her career as an Assistant State's Attorney in Cass County, ND. She joined DMF in 2002 to manage the foundation's development program. Jennifer is an experienced grant writer, fundraising specialist, and match grants program manager. For the past seven years, she has provided assistance to nonprofits on their fundraising campaigns and grantwriting endeavors. She has also provided assistance to start-up organizations in developing boards, governance systems, filing for 501(c)(3) status, and securing start-up funding.



Loretta Heuer, Ph.D,RN,FANN

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She is the Associate Dean of Nursing at North Dakota State University and the Project Director of the ND Partners in Nursing. Both her bachelor's and master's degrees are in nursing. Her doctoral degree is in research methodology from the College of Teaching and Learning at UND. As a part of Dr. Heuer's program of research, she developed and implemented a Chronic Disease Program that focused on the healthcare needs of the Latino migrant and seasonal population. She is an alumni of the 2002 Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellowship, the management Development Program 2008 Class, Harvard Graduate School of Education, 2007-09 Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing Board Leadership Program & 2009 Rural Health Fellows Program. She has taught graduate and undergraduate courses & served as department chair. She came to NDSU in 2009.



Donna Grandbois, Ph.D,RN

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She is a tenure-track assistant professor of nursing at NDSU and she is the Co-Director of the project. She earned her doctoral degree in gerontology and has a master's degree in psychiatric/mental health nursing from UND. She completed both a fellowship and a post-doctoral fellowship sponsored by the Substance Abuse & Mental Health Service Administration. Her research interests include Resilience and empowerment of Native American Elders and the communities in which they live, health and mental health issues of Native American elders, vulnerable, under-represented populations, health disparities related to trauma, aging health issues, gerontology, equitable distribution of resources to eliminate disparities. As an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Chippewa nation, she has a vested interest in Native American health, education and disparity issues.



Jane Strommen, M.S.

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She is the Project Coordinator. She has over 24 years of experience in senior care and services. For the last 7 years she served as the Executive Director of Community of Care, a new non-profit organization in rural Cass County which offers health and human services to older adults and persons with disabilities. Prior to this, she served 16+ years as a long term care administrator in two rural locations, overseeing skilled nursing care, basic care, assisted living, independent senior housing, personal care and child care. Her educational background includes a bachelor's of business administration from NDSU and a M.S. in Health Services Administration from the College of St. Francis, Joliet, Illinois. Currently she is wrapping up a doctoral degree in Gerontology from NDSU.



Mousumi Tanha, M.S.

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She is the Instructional Designer of the PIN Project. She has over 5 years of instructional and information technology experience in two higher education institutes of North Dakota State. She earned a B.S. and M.S. in Food & Nutritional Science from Bangladesh and another M.S. degree in Software Engineering from North Dakota State University in 2010. Prior to this, she worked with the Center for Instructional & Learning Technology, UND and Information Technology Services, NDSU.



Annalisa Batson

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She is a native North Dakotan; she has worked in the field of evaluation since the mid 1980's. In 2000, she and a partner founded HB Consultation and Evaluation Associates (HBA). Annalisa has served as president of the company since its beginning. HBA has conducted evaluations all across the state in the areas of health, education, and social services. She served a three-year term as the community member on the UND Institutional Review Board and has been an active member of the American Evaluation Association.





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Please share your PIN stories!
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