

RNPC: Educating Nursing Students for the Future of Healthcare Utilizing Interprofessional Collaboration

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The U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) division of Nurse Education, Practice, Quality and Retention (NEPQR) awarded \$2.8 million to Roseman University's College of Nursing to recruit and train undergraduate nursing students and current Registered Nurses to practice to the full scope of their license in community-based primary care settings. Roseman's College of Nursing is implementing a Registered Nurses in Primary Care (RNPC) training program in order to achieve a sustainable primary care nursing workforce equipped with the competencies necessary to address pressing national public health issues; even the distribution of the nursing workforce; improve access to care; and improve population health outcomes. The training programs is being implemented at both the Roseman University Nevada and Utah campuses and the surrounding communities within rural and underserved areas thereby supporting the initiatives of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Healthy People 2020.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the RNPC (Registered Nurse in Primary Care) Scholar initiative, is to:

- Recruit and train nursing students and registered nurses to practice to the full scope of their license in community-based primary healthcare teams
- Increase access to care, with an emphasis on disease prevention, and control that includes mental health and substance use conditions
- Achieve a sustainable primary care nursing workforce that has the abilities to address pressing national and global public health concerns

The RNPC Scholar initiative was implemented in order to:

- Address critical national public health issues
- Even the distribution of the nursing workforce
- Improve access to care
- Ensure that future nurses are well prepared to meet the changing healthcare delivery systems including the concept of primary care
- Remove barriers related to nursing practice in primary care.

It is the intent of this initiative to strengthen the primary care education of students and currently practicing RNs by:

- Addressing focus areas in primary care through interprofessional education
- Providing clinical training opportunities in primary care
- Educating faculty and practicing nurses in current primary healthcare needs

METHODS

- **CURRICULAR ENHANCEMENTS** were established within the designated courses: Fundamentals of Nursing | Pediatric Nursing | Community & Mental Health Nursing | Senior Practicum
- **RNPC SCHOLARS** were recruited from incoming nursing classes
- **PRIMARY CARE CLINICAL PLACEMENTS** were established both in urban and rural locations
- **SURVEYS** were constructed and disseminated to practicing registered nurses on key primary healthcare topics that they would be interested in learning more information about
- **EDUCATION** of faculty and students related to changes occurring at a national level and a **certificate in Primary Care offering** to RNPC Scholars.

RESULTS

RNPC Scholars (undergraduate students)

TOTAL NUMBER OF RNPC STUDENTS						
COHORT	Enrolled*		GRADUATED**		Primary Certificates Awarded	
	SJ	HD	SJ	HD	SJ	HD
BSN 2021	8	8	8	7	5	2
ABS N JULY 2020	8	8	7	8	4	2
ABS N FEB 2021	8	8	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
ABS N JUNE 2021	8	8	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
BSN 2023	8	8	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
ABS N FEB 2022	8	8	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
TOTALS	48	48	15	15	9	4

*At the initial start of the cohort | **Not all graduated with their initial cohorts
n/a - data is not available at this time as students are still enrolled

RNPC Registered Nurses (currently practicing RNs)

Grant Year	Conference/Workshops	# of RN's	Total # of Attendees
1	Immunization & MMR Update Workshop	7	11
2	Addiction & Modalities of Treatment Workshop	20*	30
	UAIMH 2020 Conference	14*	135
3	Depression Update for COVID-19 Webinar	6	31
	UAIMH 2021 Conference	19*	134
	STI/HIV Webinar	12	23
4	Self Care Webinar	8	17
	UAIMH 2022 Conference	17*	142
TOTALS		103	523

*Continuing Education Units were earned



CONCLUSION

Given the dynamic changing healthcare arena, it becomes imperative that future and current practicing nurses are prepared to meet the challenges associated with the provision of evidenced based quality care within this environment. This includes moving from an acute, episodic mode of healthcare delivery, to one that embrace primary care and engages clients in health promotion and disease prevention.

By providing students with the knowledge and skills related to primary care, it is the hope that these students will choose to practice in primary care sites both within urban and rural settings. The education provided to practicing RNs targeted critical primary healthcare needs nationally that affect underserved vulnerable populations.