RNPC Training Program:
Meeting the Needs of a Changing Healthcare Environment

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TRAINING OVERVIEW: 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 the 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.

**P U R P O S E**

Through the RNPC Training Program, it is Roseman CON’s goal to improve recruitment and employment of qualified registered nurses to these medically underserved areas thus increasing access to care. Through the funding of the RNPC Training Program at Roseman CON, the following objectives will be will targeted:

- Attainment of **high-quality, longer lives** free of preventable disease, disability, injury, and premature death.
- Achievement of **health equity**, eliminating disparities, and improving the health of all groups.
- Creating social and physical environments that **promote good health for all**.
- Promoting quality of life, **healthy development**, and healthy behaviors across all life stages.
- Exposing nurses in urban areas to the healthcare needs of **underserved and rural** populations in addition to professional opportunities in these areas.

**Methodology**

Several blocks/courses have been identified to provide the didactic and clinical knowledge and experiences that address the key concepts associated with the RNPC Training Program including:

- Underserved populations and vulnerability
- Social determinants of health
- Rural health
- Leadership principles

RNPC students will earn 150 or more hours in clinical experiences in a Primary Care setting within the identified blocks:

- Block 3.0 and 3.1 (NURS 302 & 302.1) Fundamentals of Nursing
- Block 4.0 (NURS 303) Nursing Pharmacology
- Block 9.0 and 9.1 (NURS 403 & 403.1) Pediatric Nursing
- Block 11.0 and 11.1 (NURS 409 & 409.1) Community and Mental Health Nursing
- Block 14.0 (NURS 407) Senior Practicum (optional block)

Students will travel to rural and underserved areas to obtain training in primary care settings both within Utah and Nevada. The travel and lodging will be provided to the students along with stipends to offset any additional costs that may be incurred due to travel.

**RNPC Goals**

- **Increase** the number of undergraduate students who are committed to practicing in rural and underserved areas of Nevada and Utah by 20% over the next 4 years.
- **Develop and implement** a replicable undergraduate nursing curriculum that provides didactic education and experiential training related to the primary healthcare needs of populations who reside in underserved and rural settings that supports the initiatives of Healthy People 2020.
- **Enhance** practicing registered nurses abilities to address population health outcomes and public health needs of underserved populations, thereby improving the quality of access to patient care, and supports the initiatives of Healthy People 2020.
- **Graduate** 85% RNPC students that will secure employment within 1-6 months after passing NCLEX exam, with 25% of those graduates who will be employed in primary care facilities located in rural neighborhoods.

**Anticipated Outcomes**

This project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) under grant UK1HP31706. “Nurse Education, Practice, Quality and Retention – Registered Nurses in Primary Care Program,” of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of an award totaling $2.8 million. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government.

**Summary**

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