PROJECT ABSTRACT

Project Title: Improving Nursing Scholarship, Practice, Innovation, Research & Education to Care for West Virginia (INSPIRE to Care for WV)

Applicant Organization Name: West Virginia University, School of Nursing

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West Virginia is a predominantly rural state with numerous poor health outcomes negatively influenced by statewide economic, social, and educational challenges. The West Virginia University School of Nursing is responding to FY2016 Advanced Nursing Education Program Funding Opportunity Announcement to “implement and test creative academic-practice partnership models aimed at improving the didactic and experiential training for advanced practice nursing students in primary care settings located in underserved and rural settings” with the desire to positively impact the state of health in West Virginia.

Specific measurable objectives resulting from Academic-Practice Partnerships centered on the exchange of meaningful information and feedback include: 1) Increased readiness to practice for Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) graduates to care for the rural and underserved populations as evidenced by improved student exit self-surveys on preparedness and improved meaningful preceptor evaluations of students; 2) Development of an improved Preceptor Policy addressing training, evaluating, recruitment, and retention of clinical preceptors and a Clinical Preceptor Manual to maximize the effectiveness of the student/preceptor relationship; 3) Enhancement of the FNP preceptor experience to increase the overall number of clinical experiential learning sites and available slots for FNP students; 4) Creation of a mechanism for ongoing academic-practice communication to continuously inform didactic curriculum of the FNP programs regarding specific, evolving health needs of the rural and underserved of West Virginia.

Project Description: The Improving Nursing Scholarship, Practice, Innovation, Research & Education to Care for WV (INSPIRE to Care for WV) Project will team the WVU School of Nursing with new and enhanced practice partners to improve advanced practice nursing in WV. FNP students in the post-Master’s certificate program, Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program, and post BSN-DNP program will be included in the project. The academic-practice partners will focus on FNP students’ practice, community, and innovation competence in delivering primary care to the rural and underserved. To enhance practice and community competence, FNP students will have Practicum clinical experiences in delivering primary care to vulnerable populations at free clinic practice partner sites. The FNPs pursing the DNP will enhance their community and innovative competence through Clinical Immersion experiences with practice partners including a critical access hospital, a public health department, and a free clinic that have teamed up in developing and implementing programs to address primary care needs identified during a Community Needs Health Assessment. The academic-practice partners will have formalized communication through intermittent Full Team Meetings, bi-weekly Debriefings, and development of eDialogue, a progressive online platform to facilitate ongoing networking amongst faculty and APRN preceptors in WV to continually enhance FNP didactic and experiential education and training.

A statutory funding preference is requested for substantially benefiting rural populations.