

Behavioral health Workforce Education for Longitudinal Learning (BWELL)

PROJECT ABSTRACT

Project Title: Behavioral health Workforce Education for Longitudinal Learning (BWELL)

Applicant Organization Name: Washburn University of Topeka

Address: 1700 SW College Ave
Topeka, KS 66621-0001

Principal Investigator: Dr. Shirley Dinkel

Contact Phone Numbers (Voice, Fax): (785) 670-1529 voice
(785) 670-1032 fax

E-Mail Address: shirley.dinkel@washburn.edu

Web Site Address: www.washburn.edu

Program funds requested in the application: **\$ 2,447,240**

Of the Health Professional Shortage Areas in Kansas, 151 are primary care designated shortage areas and 70 are mental health care shortage areas (U.S. Department of HHS, Bureau of Health Workforce Health Resources and Services Administration, 2018). In one year, an estimated 227,906 Kansans were affected by serious psychological distress (Heun-Johnson, Menchine, Goldman, & Seabury, 2018) which can negatively impact the occurrence, outcomes and trajectory of conditions commonly seen in primary care (KDHE, Healthy Kansans 2020, 2014). Dynamic changes in health care delivery and the primary care workforce, coupled with the opioid crisis and subsequent chronic pain management, are putting pressure on educators to prepare graduates for the realities of today's new paradigm of primary care. The Washburn University School of Nursing **Behavioral health Workforce Education for Longitudinal Learning (BWELL)** initiative will build on the current HRSA supported WE-KAN initiative by creating an interprofessional approach to enhance and expand an innovative APRN education model to accomplish four aims: 1.) Augment BSN-DNP family nurse practitioner (FNP) educational curriculum to include substance use disorders (SUD), chronic pain management, and application of telehealth technology in HPSA designated primary care settings in rural/underserved communities; 2.) Improve the quality of preceptor-directed clinical training of FNP students by supporting, training, and retaining current preceptors and recruiting new preceptors; 3.) Collaborate with academic-practice partners to incorporate telehealth technology bridging the gap between front line providers and clinical specialists, and 4.) Expand an existing academic pipeline from student clinical experiences in rural and underserved areas to graduate employment in those same settings. Initial academic-practice partners include Topeka Housing Authority (a medically underserved community) and Holton Health Systems (a rural primary care provider). In year 2, the project will expand to include Prairie Band Potawatomi Health Center (a rural primary care provider). The project will be guided by the BWELL Steering Committee and the SON will hire well-qualified project staff (Behavioral Health Liaison and Project Support Specialist) and specialty consultants to ensure project success. With strong community support and a high level of commitment from all stakeholders, the project has the potential to positively impact the health and wellbeing of Kansans.

Funding preference is requested based on substantive benefit to rural and underserved populations. The BWELL project will expend awarded funds to train nurse practitioners who will practice in primary care HPSA designated sites and, as such, **special consideration** is also requested.