

Binghamton University Decker School of Nursing ANEW Project Abstract

The purpose of this competing continuation application is to respond to the HRSA Advanced Nursing Education Workforce (ANEW) Program funding announcement. The Decker School of Nursing (DSON) will expand on the the *Improving Rural Health: ANEW Way of NP Education* project to enhance the innovative academic-practice partnership model to prepare primary care advance practice registered nursing students to work in rural and underserved settings. The proposed project will meet the health professional shortage needs in the rural south central New York and Northern Pennsylvania with an expansion to the North Country counties of New York state which is particularly rural.

The population that DSON seeks to serve through this ANEW project includes the rural Appalachian counties of (Chenango, Cortland, Delaware, Chemung, and Tioga) as well as Clinton, Franklin and St. Lawrence in NY and Susquehanna in PA. Rates of diabetes, cardiovascular disease and respiratory diseases are high. Heart disease, cancer and COPD are the top three causes of death in the region. Obesity rates across counties ranges from 26% in Delaware County to 34% in Susquehanna County compared to 24% in NY state overall. In addition to these poor health indicators, other factors impact overall health including physical inactivity rates ranging from 22.4% in Cortland to 26.7% in Chenango. The median income averages \$41,418, which is lower than the NY state rate of \$54,047. While the overall poverty rate is about 16% on average, the rates are higher for children. On average, 23.5% of children in the service area counties live in poverty compared to 23% in the states.

Building on the relationships of existing academic-clinical partnerships with rural healthcare organizations we will recruit from within these rural areas to support a “grow your own” model of increasing the workforce. We will place students in rural clinical sites in designated Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA) where they already live and work. We will offer two cohorts of 22 student clinical traineeship opportunities along with clinical mentoring, and preceptor development. Curricular revisions supporting longitudinal primary care experiences demonstrate that APRN graduates are likely to remain in these settings. We propose to develop a 45-hour micro-credential in telehealth that will be developed in collaboration with our rural health partners that are practicing telehealth across New York State. Augmented curricular revisions of the new cohort will include a 3 credit course on the principles of telehealth. Culminating activities will include the development of a Rural Telehealth Consortium to enhance networking among rural providers of telehealth.

To achieve our goal, we will provide students with 660 longitudinal hours of clinical experience (of 600 direct patient care), continue with a mentoring model of traineeship with a 1:1 preceptor. One hundred percent of our program participants will exhibit knowledge of rural characteristics and the impact on healthcare, 100% of participants will meet clinical competency expectations and 90% of graduates will become employed in a primary care or, rural setting or medically underserved area. The DSON will also collaborate with other ANEW funded programs in an effort to collect national data on telehealth education. Grant funds will be used to provide traineeship stipends to cover the cost of tuition and supplies \$22K per student per year; fund project staff; and, related costs associated with the creation of the telehealth micro-credential and the state-wide consortium. Year 1-4 request: \$700,000 per year.

Request for Funding Priorities: This project will 1) substantially benefit rural or underserved populations and meet healthcare provider needs based on our rate of graduates from the previous academic year who are currently employed in rural or underserved settings.