

IN SUPPORT OF THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

ILLINOIS COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRESIDENTS (ICCCP)

All community colleges in Illinois offer the Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN), but to meet the increased demand for nurses, **special consideration must be given to graduates of ADN programs who wish to complete a baccalaureate degree.**

If community colleges in Illinois could offer BSN programs, including RN-to-BSN programs, **Illinois could meet the workforce demands for this health care occupation.**

The reduced cost and convenience of community college BSN programs would make it possible for RNs to move up the career ladder without leaving their current employment, incurring additional educational debt, or moving away from their families.

Demand Pipeline

- **43.7% of hospitals** and other healthcare settings are requiring new nursing hires to have a bachelor's degree in nursing.
- **78.6% of employers are expressing a strong preference for BSN program graduates.** <http://www.aacn.nche.edu/student/news/2013/new-data>.
- The Magnet Recognition Program®, a voluntary credentialing program for nursing care that many hospitals are pursuing, calls for “an action plan that includes a target and demonstrates evidence of progress toward **80% of registered nurses obtaining a baccalaureate or graduate degree in nursing by 2020.** <http://www.nursecredentialing.org/DEO-FAQ>
- A 2013 survey of nurse executives revealed that **80% preferred the hiring of BSNs.** However, they were not able to meet this preference due to lack of accessibility to BSN graduates and nurses (Pittman, Herrera, Horton, Thompson, Ware & Terry, 2013)
- According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the RN workforce is expected to grow from 2.71 million in 2012 to 3.24 million in 2022, an increase of 19%. **The Bureau projects the total number of job openings for nurses will be 1.05 million by 2022.** <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/ecopro.t08.htm>.
- A 2012 survey of 2,744 Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) student **respondents in Illinois revealed that 86.7% of them intended to pursue a bachelor's degree** (Illinois Community Colleges Registered Nursing Student Survey Report, October 9, 2012- not published).
- A 2013 study done by the National Student Nurses Association found that **90% of all student nurses intended to return to school for another degree** (Mancino & Feeg, 2013).

Supply Pipeline

- Fully 25% of qualified nursing applicants nationally were not accepted into nursing programs in 2012 due to a lack of capacity.
http://www.nln.org/researchgrants/slides/topic_admissions_rn.htm
- Based on the annual reports of the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, in 2011,2012, and 2013 there were 52%, 46% and 44% respectively of the qualified applicants not admitted to the BSN programs **due to lack of capacity in the Illinois BSN programs.** (IDFPR Annual Reports).
- Because most nursing students are nontraditional students, **most community college nursing graduates are transitioning to online BSN programs and are not transitioning to the State universities.**

Cost

- According to the College Board, **Illinoisans paid one of the nation's highest prices for a four-year degree from an in-state school during the 2014-2015 academic year**, with the average cost at \$12,770 a year. By comparison, the average full-time Illinois community college student pays \$3,758 per year in tuition and fees.
- **No additional state support is required for this initiative.** The ICCCP recommends student tuition and property tax revenue should be the funding model. As with other states, it is anticipated the third and fourth year tuition costs likely will be higher than traditional associate degree tuition.
- **Universities have a gap to fill in graduate nursing programs.** According to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (2013, September) “an estimated 32 million Americans gain insurance under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), the current shortage of primary care providers (PCPs) will worsen, but nurses trained at the graduate level will help fill the gap. Nurse practitioners (NPs), who must earn a master of science in nursing (MSN) or a doctorate of nursing practice (DNP) degree, are the fastest-growing group of PCPs. By 2025 they are projected to double their numbers and near or top 200,000.”
- **A coordinated strategy is needed.** Universities are perfectly suited to step in and provide the graduate education needed to meet the growing demand for these upper level positions, allowing the community colleges to aid in meeting the demand for the BSN. This strategy would allow universities and community colleges to collaboratively respond in a comprehensive way to the continued shortage.
- Twenty-three states across our nation already have approved community colleges to be providers of the baccalaureate degree; **it is important for students that Illinois become the twenty-third state and to provide the community college BSN.**

- **The ICCCP specifically recommends allowing for the approval of the BSN to be offered through Illinois' community colleges.**