Request: The State Board of Community Colleges is asked to approve up to $25,000 to work on the collaborative development of a competency-based BSN (Bachelors of Science in Nursing) completion program between the NC Community College System and the University of North Carolina.

Background: In Fall 2014, Dr. Scott Ralls, former President of the North Carolina Community College System, appointed an ad hoc committee to examine the role of the North Carolina Community College System in relationship to the recommendations from the Institute of Medicine’s 2010, The Future of Nursing Leadership, Change, Advancing Health Report to increase the proportion of baccalaureate prepared nurses to eighty percent by 2020.

The Future of Community College Nursing Education ad hoc committee met from October 2014 through March 2015 and examined the impact of hospital-based and statewide goals related to baccalaureate preparation. Their final report was presented to the Associate Degree Nursing Directors, the NC Association of Community College Presidents and to the State Board of Community Colleges. At the January 2016 meeting, the State Board approved the following three recommendations:

(1.) Expand the Regionally Increasing Bachelors in Nursing (RIBN) collaboration between North Carolina community colleges and universities.

(2.) Expand statewide partnerships between the NC Community College System and the University of North Carolina by increasing the number and capacity of RN to BSN online programs, and the collaborative development of a competency-based BSN completion program at one of the UNC System nursing schools.

(3.) Monitor the RN to BSN Uniform Articulation (3+1) Agreement (which was effective Fall 2015) by performing data analysis and assessment of the university admission capacity to enroll students in the program.

Rationale: Due to the limited time frame of four months, we will focus our activities toward initiating the following: (1) Developing a statewide communication/marketing campaign that addresses educational options for nursing in the community college system that includes: Career and College Promise, Regionally Increasing Bachelors in Nursing (RIBN), Associate Degree in Nursing, the RN to BSN Uniform Articulation (3+1) Agreement; (2) Developing a strategic student advising plan that includes, but is not limited to: student assessment, student advising/counseling, academic planning, and revising/changing the student information system regarding coding, tracking and data collection and analysis; and (3) Initiating collaborative efforts in the development of a competency-based BSN completion program. These funds will be used to pay for meetings, travel, consultation, and staff.
Funding Amount and Time Period: The $25,000 is for the period of March 1, 2016-June 30, 2016.

Fund Source and Availability: FY 2015-16 funding is available from the State Board Reserve fund.

Contact(s)
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