

Dear RN-BSN Student,

Hello, I am writing to explain a grant opportunity which was awarded to Pittsburg State University's Irene Ransom Bradley School of Nursing (IRBSO). The purpose of the Nurse Education, Practice, Quality, and Retention-Registered Nurses in Primary Care (NEPQR) grant is to meet the challenges of training RN-BSN nursing students who are ready to practice to the full scope of their license in community-based primary care practice teams that are located in medically underserved areas (MUAs).

The IRBSO has developed academic partnerships for clinical experiences with the clinics of the Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas; the Crawford County Health Department, Pittsburg, KS; the Northeastern Tribal Health System, Miami, OK; the Barton County Health Department, Lamar, MO; and Access Family Care, Neosho, MO. **Additional partnerships are being established at this time.** These partnerships will assist in reaching the overall goal of the NEPQR program: to prepare a nursing workforce that can address the national public health issues facing people in rural MUAs.

To meet this objective, RN-BSN students who strive to become primary care nurses in MUAs will be provided with longitudinal clinical training and professional development opportunities that emphasize chronic disease prevention and control. These opportunities are made possible by the NEPQR grant and simply require a commitment to practice in a rural and/or medically underserved area for the first year after graduation with a baccalaureate degree. **Full-time and part-time students are eligible for the grant. The grant requires students to complete 150 clinical hours.** These clinical hours will include time spent in the clinics and documentation of patient interactions, preparation of patient and staff educational teaching materials, and journal of clinical experiences. Students will follow the plan outlined below for completing the required 150 hours of clinical **over 3 semesters** in a primary care clinic. It is expected that Kansas will soon be joining the Registered Nurse Compact which will enable students to complete the clinical requirements in Kansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma.

Phase 1: 32 hours with a focus on oral health knowledge and assessment.

Phase 2: 78 hours focusing on oral health education and community resources for patients and families. (an iPad or MacBook (provided by the grant) will be utilized for individual education teachings with patients and their families).

Phase 3: 40 hours developing and presenting a continuing education/staff session and/or webinar for clinic staff.

In order to qualify for a tuition stipend from the grant totaling \$9,000, the RN-BSN student must: 1) complete and submit an application and essay to the NEPQR Project Director; 2) sign a commitment to practice in a Health Professional Shortage Area upon graduation; 3) commit to completing 150 clinical hours; and 4) purchase access to Typhon, a software clinical documentation tool, for \$60 dollars to record clinical data. **The grant application needs to be submitted to Dr. Giefer at sondirectorclerkal@pittstate.edu by November 15, 2019.**

This grant opportunity is an excellent resource for our students to obtain both monetary and academic support, while also giving back to rural and underserved communities by their commitment to practice in underserved areas after graduation. I sincerely encourage you to apply for this grant funding opportunity.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Giefer, PhD, APRN

NEPQR Project Director

Director and University Professor