

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 (IRBSN). 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 IRBSN 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. These partnerships will assist in reaching the overall goal of the NEPQR grant: 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 MUA for the first year after graduation with a baccalaureate degree. If you are a **Full-Time Student**, you will follow the plan outlined below for completing the required 150 hours of clinical, over 3 semesters, in a primary care clinic or health department, located in the state where you are licensed as a registered nurse. **Part-Time Students** will complete the 150 hours over two years and the clinical hours will be dependent upon courses they enroll in according to their plan of study.

Accepted students will complete:

Phase 1: 32 hours with a focus on opioid medication knowledge and use assessment.

Phase 2: 78 hours focusing on opioid medication teaching promoting health promotion and disease prevention for patients and families using iPads and MacBooks.

Phase 3: 40 hours developing a continuing education session or webinar for staff on opioid medications.

In order to qualify for a tuition stipend from the grant, the RN-BSN student must complete and submit an application and essay to the NEPQR Project Director and sign a commitment to practice in a *health professional shortage area* upon graduation with completion of the 150 clinical hours, which will solidify your commitment to the terms of the grant. 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 after graduation. I sincerely encourage you to apply for this grant funding opportunity.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Giefer, PhD, APRN

NEPQR Project Director, IRBSN Director and University Professor