

Dear RN to 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 (IRBSON). 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 IRBSON 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.

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.

Phase I: 32 hours with a focus on assessment of a health topic and patient knowledge of a health topic.

Phase II: 78 hours focusing on patient education on a specific health topic and community resources for patients and families. An iPad or MacBook (provided by the grant, if available) will be utilized for individual educational teachings with patients and their families.

Phase III: 40 hours developing and presenting a continuing education program for clinic staff over a specified health topic.

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 Clinical Coordinator; 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 Fall 2021 NEPQR Grant application, NEPQR Essay, and NEPQR Disadvantaged Status Form need to be submitted via email to Dr. Gena Coomes, NEPQR Clinical Coordinator, at gcoomes@pittstate.edu by 4:30pm on March 15, 2021.**

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