

Building Bridges to Foster Support for Students Who Wish to Become Nurses at the High School Level - Mona Weber, MS

Maryland Higher Education Commission's Nursing Support II (NSPII) Grant funds the College of Southern Maryland's (CSM) Associate to Bachelor's (ATB) Coordinator is actively working with local high schools to foster support for students who wish to become nurses. By being a part of early intervention, the hope is to increase the number of nurses in the Southern Maryland and to promote a smooth transition towards their nursing licensure and education towards their bachelor's degree in nursing.

****Encourage students to gain a solid foundation by taking math (college algebra and higher) and science (biology, chemistry and physics) courses to prepare themselves for their nursing career. Educate them as to why these courses will play a large role in their nursing career.***

****Experience in health career settings will give students exposure as to what a nursing career involves. Hospitals offer internships as well as nursing homes where students can volunteer giving an opportunity to learn more about the profession.***

****Collaborate with high school science and math faculty to make them aware of the requirements for nursing programs.***

**Encourage enrollment into CSM's High School Dual Enrollment giving students the ability to take nursing associate degree prerequisites while in high school*

**Empowering the students in terms of making them aware of what they need to accomplish to be eligible to petition for entry into CSM's Associate Degree in Nursing Program such as anatomy and physiology, microbiology, college algebra and statistics*

**Make students aware that a nursing career involves life-long learning and need to continue with their bachelor's degree in nursing. Introducing them to the ATB Degree in Nursing where program at CSM students can enroll in the Associate to Bachelor's (ATB) Degree in Nursing Program where they can start taking their upper level nursing courses.*

**Educate students as to how to learn concepts and how to be able to apply that knowledge. For example, of how math is important to calculate medication*

**Collaborate with high school science and math faculty to make them aware of the requirements for nursing programs.*

**Work closely with high school counselors to assist them in educating the students as to what is involved in becoming a nurse.*

**Invite nursing students and faculty to speak to high school students.*

Working with high school student who are interested in a nursing career is an opportunity to create diverse and highly educated nurses who would therefore have a solid foundation in math and the sciences and the ability to apply the knowledge they learned.

- *References*
- Eika Torpey, (January 2015). Career planning for high schoolers. *Career Outlook, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.*
- Karen Farnen (June 29, 2018). High School Requirements for Nursing. *Chron.com*, <https://work.chron.com/high-school-requirements-nursing-10214.html>
- Staff Writer (May 12, 2020). Students Can Prepare for a Nursing Career. *Nursing Journal, Social Community for Nurses Worldwide*, <https://nursejournal.org/community/10-ways-high-school-students-can-prepare-for-a-nursing-career>