

## **Expanding Academic and Career Development Strategies to Strengthen Nurse Educator Preparation**

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#### **Background**

The escalating shortage of nurses is expected to intensify as more nurse educators retire or resign and nursing schools struggle to expand capacity in response to rising healthcare demands. A statewide initiative funded by the Maryland Higher Education Commission's NSP II, was designed to address the nurse faculty and clinical instructor shortage. Expanding professional development strategies, academic resources, along with advising and mentoring current students develops and strengthens graduates' preparation to assume teaching roles in Maryland.

### **Objectives**

Explore a variety of strategies used to enhance the preparation of future nurse educators.

Discuss implications of early academic, career, and professional development activities to assure preparation of qualified nurse faculty in Maryland.

#### **Purpose**

The goal was to expand nurse educator preparation to meet the growing demand for qualified academic, clinical, and hospital-based nurse educators in Maryland.

#### Approaches/Methods



# UMSON COHEN SCHOLARS 80 60 40 20 0 Graduates Total Scholars

Availability of highly skilled graduate nurses has led to increased nurse educator placements. The number of graduates prepared as nurse educators rose from 15 in May 2020 to 26 in December 2021.

#### **Implications**

This initiative supported preparation of 41 graduate and doctoral prepared educators for Maryland's academic settings and acute care hospitals. Students participated in a variety of educational and teaching related activities each semester. Graduates acknowledged greater success securing teaching positions as academic faculty, clinical instructors, simulation lab instructors, professional development specialists, and nurse residency coordinators.

#### **Bibliography**

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