

Investment Fund for the Future (IF2)

Entry #52

A. PROPOSAL SUMMARY

Title: Online Course Build Support for Graduate Nursing Program

Project Lead Name: Elizabeth Heavey
Nursing

Project Lead email address: eheavey@brockport.edu

Amount Requested: 37422

This proposal includes cost sharing.

Name of Sponsor 1: Mark Kittleson
Health & Human Performance

Name of Sponsor 2:

Name of Sponsor 3:

A-1. Description of the Initiative

A proposal to reinstate the Master's Program in Nursing (Family Nurse Practitioner) has been approved by SUNY and is currently being reviewed by SED. This will be a graduate nursing program with a hybrid executive model design. Students will be coming to campus only once a month. Many of the courses will be 100% asynchronous.

The Department of Nursing conducted a needs assessment in spring 2015. This needs assessment revealed that graduates from the BSN program at the College see the addition of a graduate nursing program as a real need. The BSN program graduates 150 to 190 students a year. As many as 50 percent of our undergraduate and RN to-BSN nursing graduates anticipate advancing to graduate programs in the future (Alumni survey, 2015). More than 50 percent of our alumni who are interested in graduate school have indicated they will not be able to go to graduate school unless a financially viable option exists within their community and specifically at The College at Brockport (alumni survey, 2015). The addition of the FNP program would provide our students with a more cost effective alternative to an advanced practice nursing degree, and thus benefit individuals who find the private higher education pathway to be cost prohibitive.

Curriculum has been designed for this program, but all of the courses will need to be built in the Blackboard program before the fall of 2018. Being awarded the amount requested will provide faculty who will build these courses compensation for their time and energy to build high quality interactive online courses working in conjunction with the instructional technologist on campus. Faculty who accept the course development stipend will agree that designed courses will be made available and able to be amended by any nursing department faculty assigned to teach the course future forward.

In addition, money is being requested to send the graduate coordinator and graduate clinical coordinator to the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculty (NONPF) national conference to insure our accreditation application process meets the mandated guidelines for the profession.

A-2. Impact Statement: What change will this project deliver in the short term? What are the expected longer term impacts?

The impact of this program within the community is great. The graduate program prepares registered nurses for advanced practice roles as nurse practitioners who are able to meet the increasingly complex health needs of diverse populations within the Rochester area and beyond.

In addition, this high quality and in demand graduate program will have a significant positive impact on the campus by admitting an additional 25 graduate students to each year of the two-year full time program. This will bring in a substantial amount of graduate tuition during the academic year as well as the summer session. In addition, the Department of Nursing is writing a proposal for a master plan amendment (MPA) that if approved would allow The College at Brockport to award a clinical doctorate (Doctor of Nursing Practice). If approved, it would allow a DNP to be awarded and also open the doors for other departments on campus to offer clinical doctorates such as an Ed.D. DNP tuition is almost double the standard graduate tuition rate. If the MPA is not approved, the Masters in Nursing program is designed with the potential be expanded over time to offer a Masters in Nursing Education.

B. STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

B-1. To be a Great College at which to Learn

Currently the Department of Nursing is a campus leader in innovative on-line and hybrid course design. This funding opportunity would provide additional resources to continue to build upon this established success in order to attract graduate nursing students from within and outside the Rochester region.

The proposed courses will be built using the latest research, innovative field based assignments, and varied modes of instruction. Faculty will employ high impact practices with multiple levels of engagement to develop professional practice and rigorous analysis of the evidence. The Masters in Nursing program will engage students in research and evidence based projects for the improvement of health care and health care delivery.

The FNP program will provide a more inclusive environment for students as a cost effective alternative to an advanced practice nursing degree. This benefits individuals who find the private higher education pathway to be cost prohibitive. Enhancing the diversity of the nursing student body would benefit the profession and serve as a model of creating pathways for success within SUNY.

B-2. To be a College engaged with its Community

The Masters in Nursing program will educate Family Nurse Practitioners who are primary care providers able to deliver quality health care to the individuals and families of the greater Rochester area as well as New York State. This is a clearly documented need in our region, particularly within the rural areas of our community. This program will build partnerships within the community, as preceptors to our students, as well as employers of our graduates. All of our students will spend at least 600 hours within our community clinical sites and partnerships. Several of the partners that have already agreed to

accept our students for clinical placements are hoping our graduates will choose to remain with the facility to meet the community needs. In addition, the development of the program has the full support and endorsement of our Community Advisory Board which includes all the major health care system Chief Nursing Officers and several primary care service providers in the region. The Community Advisory Board Members have indicated that they anticipate employment rates for our FNP graduates to meet or exceed national levels (Community Advisory Board Survey, 2015).

B-3. To be a Sustainable Institution for the 21st Century

The department already offers an online/hybrid RN-BSN completion program which has grown over 300% since inception. The growth and demand for online programs has been clearly documented on our campus as well as throughout the nation. The nursing department has faculty members who are leaders in online education and online instructional components are already in place and being used within the department. Continued growth in high quality online educational programs and courses is a necessary component for any sustainable institution in the 21st Century. Leaders in online education within the Department of Nursing take an active role in promoting the development of these programs within their department and campus wide.

Offering a graduate nursing degree will also make The College at Brockport more attractive to incoming nursing students, knowing that their education could be continued in a more cost-effective and seamless educational process.

Further, if the MPA is approved by SUNY, the transformation at the college would be a significant step towards sustainability. Our department and others throughout the campus would be eligible to award practice doctorates. The Masters in Nursing (FNP) program needs to be up and running before awarding the DNP is an option.

B-4. To be a Great College at which to Work

The Department of Nursing recognizes that its faculty and staff are its most important assets and have long term retention rates indicating high levels of faculty and staff satisfaction.

Developing high quality online courses that engage students with subject content, their peers, their professors and their community takes time and innovation. Several of our nursing faculty members are recognized on campus and throughout the state for their online course delivery skills and mentorship. The requested funds would allow faculty to continue to build online courses that encourages outstanding student engagement with instructional technology support.

It is important to note that nursing faculty teach through the summer and teach electives over winter session. There is no down time for nursing faculty who are also frequently carrying overload instructional credits. Awarding this request will affirm a culture of workplace excellence. An excellent place to work should provide support for additional workload requirements as all of the faculty will continue to carry their full contractual teaching load while developing of these course. Fairly compensating faculty members for the large amount of work that needs to be done is an essential step in ensuring high quality online course builds.

C. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN AND BUDGET

C-1. Identify the specific activities to be funded from the Investment Fund, estimated time-line for implementation, and for activities anticipated to be ongoing, plans for continued funding.

Item 1: Faculty stipends

Item 1 Amount: 33750

Item 2: Travel to 2017 NONPF

Item 2 Amount: 2424

Item 3: Travel to 2018 NONPF

Item 3 Amount: 3648

Item 4:

Item 4 Amount:

Item 5:

Item 5 Amount:

Item 6:

Item 6 Amount:

Item 7:

Item 7 Amount:

Item 8:

Item 8 Amount:

Item 9:

Item 9 Amount:

Item 10:

Item 10 Amount:

TOTAL EXPENSES, ALL ITEMS: 39822

Matching Fund: 2400

**In-Kind Services: Provide FTE and name of personnel who have committed to in-kind services.
Checked**

D. ASSESSMENT PLAN:

D-1. What are the anticipated outcomes and specific measurements for success?

Fifteen courses will be fully built and operational within the Blackboard content management system by the fall semester of 2018 when the graduate program will begin. Courses will be assessed using the Open SUNY OSCQR rubric by the program director.

Assessment of the program once instituted will include admission rates, retention rates, graduation rates, certification pass rates, student satisfaction and comparisons with national norms and competencies.

E. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

E-1. Please provide any additional information to assist in the review of the proposal, including why the initiative cannot be funded from divisional resources.

This proposal supports a high need project ensuring timely completion in order to admit the first graduate cohort for the fall of 2018. Divisional resources are not adequate to cover this expense and faculty are currently at or over contractual requirements already.

Upload up to three supplemental files here (not required): [On file]

Signature of Project Lead: [on file]

Email: eheavey@brockport.edu

Signatures of sponsors are on file in the Administration and Finance Division.

Sponsor 1 Comments: excellent proposal

Sponsor 2 comments:

Sponsor 3 Comments:

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