

## Viterbo School of Nursing HRSA NURSES Grant Program



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NURSES Grant Program



### Background

<https://www.viterbo.edu/school-nursing/nurses-program>



### Background

- In 2017, Viterbo was awarded a \$1.64 million grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Nursing Workforce Diversity Program.



- This grant supports Viterbo's, **N**ursing for **U**nderserved **R**ural students **S**eeking **E**ducational **S**uccess (NURSES) Program

### Background



- The initiative is designed to:
  - Address the rural nursing workforce shortage
  - Improve rural health outcomes through an increase in the number and preparedness of nurses from, and willing to serve, rural and disadvantaged populations.

### Background

- Why is addressing the rural nursing workforce important?
  - Roughly 70% of the counties within a 100-mile radius of Viterbo are considered rural as defined by the USDA
    - Rural residents are older and tend to be uninsured or underinsured
    - Rural residents have significant health challenges as disparities, including higher rates of poverty and chronic health conditions



### Background

- Substantial Increase in Diverse Populations in Rural Wisconsin & Need to Increase Diverse RN Workforce
  - Increasing the number of racially and ethnically diverse RN's in rural underserved areas is a strategic way to improve health outcomes and reduce disparities in care.



### NURSES Program - Five Program Objectives - #1

1. Increase awareness, interest and knowledge of the nursing profession, including academic requirements, through customized outreach activities to rural, disadvantaged students in grades 6–12, specifically targeting districts with high Hispanic or low income populations.
  - Accomplished via outreach education and campus visits

### NURSES Program - Five Program Objectives - #3

3. Enroll up to 12 new students in the NURSES program annually and retain 80% of NURSES students to graduation.  
High Impact Practices:
  - Summer Immersion Intensive Program
  - Living-Learning Communities for NURSES students
  - Peer mentors and tutors
  - Success Course with professional RN mentors
  - WI Express Summer Program
  - Rural clinical focus-one or two clinical courses for each NURSES student

### NURSES Program - Five Program Objectives - #5

5. Enhance cultural competency and the understanding of rural health for all BSN students and faculty.
  - Identifying and establishing rural clinical sites within the undergraduate nursing program
  - Rural Health Diversity Symposium-bi-annual event for all undergraduate nursing students and faculty

### NURSES Program - Five Program Objectives - #2

2. Increase enrollment of rural, disadvantaged students into the BSN program to impact the rural nursing workforce shortage and improve rural health outcomes.
  - Admission staff and project coordinator making joint visits to rural schools
  - NURSES students visiting rural schools, especially their home districts
  - Focused campus visit days for rural high school students
  - Holistic Review Admission Process for Undergraduate Nursing Program

### NURSES Program - Five Program Objectives - #4

4. Provide financial support in the form of scholarships and stipends to eligible Viterbo University NURSES students.
  - Scholarships of for students per academic year for duration of the grant (37 enrolled students for Fall 2020)
  - Stipends of per student per academic year
  - Stipends for travel to rural clinical
  - Paid student worker positions
    - NURSES Ambassadors for rural outreach activities
    - Peer mentors and tutors



THANK YOU!

