

# North Carolina Community Colleges Foundation

## Rural Nursing Students

North Carolina Community College system received a \$2 million Traditional grant in 2021, payable over three years, to support nursing degree students, by supporting rural community college nursing instructors. North Carolina is experiencing a nursing shortage, and this program is designed to support nursing programs at six community colleges in rural areas across the state. Many rural areas find it hard to recruit and retain nursing faculty instructors, and these same areas find it hard to recruit and retain students in nursing programs. And the plight continues as it is hard to retain RNs to work in rural medical settings.

This program has several components that combined should change some of the dim rates of retention, graduation and passing the INCLEX exams students experience. Coaches will be secured to support pre-nursing students, nursing students and allied health students at the selected community colleges. The coaches will provide advising and referrals to available resources. Another part of the program supports faculty development to help prepare nurse educators as instructors. Resources will be designed to help transition nurses from clinical work to teaching. The third part of this program includes providing incentives to faculty as they pursue continuing education. Higher level degrees are a requirement of the Board of Nursing, and over 50 percent of nursing instructors must have a graduate degree that are teaching at each community college.