



December 23, 2022

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110 Washington Avenue, lower level
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This letter is to share our organization's support of the grant application to be submitted by the Connecticut Center for Nursing Workforce, Inc. (CCNW) entitled, ***"Innovations to Support the Nursing Expansion Grant Program in Connecticut- Nurse Education Professional Track"***.

Addressing the bottlenecks in training the nursing workforce requires action and innovation on many levels. On October 1, 2022, the State of Connecticut passed legislation to expand Registered Nurse (RN) student enrolments by 20% over three years which means adding over 1,000 RN students statewide into our programs. The increase in students, requires an increase in nurse faculty, clinical nurse faculty and clinical sites.

The timing is perfect for the CCNW to engage in this work. and expand and diversify the pipeline of qualified nursing professionals who can fill instructor and educator roles as part-time Clinical Nurse Faculty and full-time Nurse Faculty in Connecticut (CT). Active engagement and mutually beneficial academic and practice/employer partnerships are the foundations that will drive success and demonstrate outcomes of well-prepared nurse faculty.

The CCNW's "just in time" 100% online faculty-led nurse faculty preparation courses will equip our nurses with postsecondary credentials to attain the essential "teaching pedagogies & competencies" required to be successful in on-ground, hybrid, or online teaching environments. Moreover, the complimentary course on Population Health and the Joint Appointment MERCI model of nurse faculty employment will round out the efforts.

We support CCNW's new innovative education models that will achieve short-term and long-term returns for Colleges and Universities to welcome "education-ready" talented nurses to employ within our academic settings to prepare RNs to meet the current and future workforce needs and to provide safe and quality care to our CT residents.

On behalf of my organization, I am excited to see these new models be embraced and implemented in Connecticut.

Sincerely,

Kimberly A. Sandor, MSN, RN, FNP
Executive Director
Connecticut Nurses Association