DCCCD Incentive Funding
Retention Awards
Executive Summary

SEED AWARDS:

Nursing Clinical Experience for at-Risk Students

Award Principal Coordinator: Jessie Beecham, ECC
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Collaboration: ECC and NLC
Award Amount: $26,400 Award period: 4 Semesters

Many nursing students are unable to be successful in their studies because of family and work constraints and other financial responsibilities. At-risk students, especially those who have weak clinical skills, find success even more difficult since hospitals today are demanding even better prepared students upon graduation. This seed award will be used to improve upon weak clinical skills for those at-risk El Centro nursing students. Having good clinical skills is critically necessary to become competent nurses.

In this program students from different educational and cultural backgrounds will go to an acute care hospital for 6 continuous days, or two weekends (F,S, Su), for 8 hrs in a morning/evening shift during summer/winter breaks for the express purpose of focusing on improving their clinical skills. It has been implemented through Continuing Education for the past 5 years in a county acute care hospital (Parkland Hospital).Through the program students are exposed to a variety of acutely ill patients in the Medical & Surgical units at the clinical site and have learned to care for multiple patients using critical thinking and evidenced-based practice. They have realized the importance of documentation, communication, and organization in order to be successful in the workplace.

The SCANS skills program has contributed to a better understanding of the expectations of the workplace and students have always felt confident to move to the next semester after completion of the course. Students in the CE program enrolled voluntarily when they felt they needed additional support for competency and many have stated that this program should be a mandatory experience.