

Regional Projects

Under the NUCLU Initiative, there are four regional areas to ensure that programs and projects are tailored to meet the varying needs and maximize use of the resources in each area.

Boston Region

Nursing Career Coaching Project: The goals of this project are to provide career coaching services to 100 adult individuals interested in pursuing a nursing career and to introduce a career in nursing to 100 youth. The primary focus of the Boston projects is Career Coaching. There is one Career Coach for adults and another Career Coach for youth. Boston-based healthcare sites participating in this initiative are the:

- Cambridge Health Alliance: this project offers one-on-one financial aide counseling, and assistance with fulfilling prerequisite or developmental classes needed for acceptance into a nursing program.
- Sherill House: this is a bridge to nursing program for long-term care facility staff that want to become nurses.
- Brigham and Women's Hospital: services include referrals to the Health Care and Research Training Institute, a program that offers education and skills training for employees of institutions in the Longwood Medical area, and assistance to workers who have defaulted on previous loans and are now interested in returning to school to become a nurse.
- Lahey Clinic: presentations to Lahey's nurse educators with follow up outreach sessions for additional Lahey staff. A workshop titled, "Getting Started in Nursing," is provided to individuals interested in pursuing a nursing education.
- Massachusetts General Hospital: Career Coaching services for individuals interested in pursuing a career in nursing.

Forgivable Loan Pool: The Boston Private Industry Council, working with the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers, will select 10 individuals employed in a Community Health Center who are either interested in pursuing a degree in nursing or are currently in a nursing program and experiencing financial difficulty. The adult Career Coach will work with these individuals as needed. Ultimately, upon successful completion of a nursing degree, these workers will commit to working in a Community Health Center. The goal for this project is 10 individuals.

Immigrant Healthcare Worker: This project will identify two potential populations:

- Immigrants, who completed post-secondary nurse education in their native country that is equivalent to the training required for nurses in the U.S. This population will receive coaching and assistance in applying for credential CGFNS and the Board of Nursing Registration, high-level ESOL, and NCLEX test preparation.
- Immigrants who have completed post-secondary training in their native country as nurses or other clinical care professions, but such training was not equivalent to the training required for nurses in the U.S. This

population will receive college and career planning services, including financial panning assistance as well as college-prep ESOL. The goal is to assist 40 individuals.

For more information on any of these projects, please contact Rebekah Lashman, Special Programs Manager at the Boston Private Industry Council, (617) 423-3755

Central Massachusetts Region

The Central Massachusetts Region has implemented these projects:

- Middlesex Community College, Fitchburg State College and Emerson Hospital: This is a collaborative recruitment /retention project whose activities will include; nurses as mentors, and colleges sharing retention resources for at-risk nursing students. Services will be provided by the project Career Coach. The Career Coach will also implement a mentoring workshop for nurses employed at Emerson Hospital.
- Mt. Wachusett Community College: This is a student retention project utilizing a Career Coach to work with at-risk nursing students. The Career Coach will also work with employers in the region.
- The Career Coach is developing a survey tool to evaluate the experience of project participants with an emphasis on barriers to success.

For more information on any of these projects, please contact Sylvia Beville, Executive Director, Metro Southwest Regional Employment Board, (508) 665-5990

South East Massachusetts Region

The South East Massachusetts Region has implemented these projects:

- Cape Cod Community College – A nursing student retention project designed to foster partner-college collaboration in the delivery of activities that improve retention of students admitted to the Nursing Program Class of 2005. The goal for this project is 69 graduates.
- Quincy College –A student retention project for participants enrolled in the ADN program. The goal for this project is 15 graduates. Additionally, through a partnership with South Shore Hospital, they are selecting an individual from South Shore Hospital who will take on an 18-month sabbatical to be an Adjunct Nurse Instructor at the school.
- Bristol Community College - A fast track program for LPNs to become RNs. The enrollment plan is ten new nursing students.

- UMASS Dartmouth – A nursing student retention project for individuals enrolled in a BSN program. The goal for this project is 20 graduates.
- UMASS Dartmouth - An increased capacity and retention project that focuses on nursing faculty development. This project encourages BSN-prepared clinical staff to enroll in a four-course Certificate Program in Nurse Education. A student teaching experience is included. Upon completion of the certificate program, each nurse will be assigned as a faculty advisor/mentor to 5 undergraduate students. It is projected that 8 nurses will participate in Certificate Program in Nursing Education and then mentor 40 nursing students.

For more information about these projects, please contact Judith Coykendall, Project Director, at jcoykendall@comcast.net

Western Massachusetts Region

The Western Massachusetts Region has implemented these projects:

- Springfield Technical Community College: A Nurse Education Expansion Initiative to enroll 32 new students into an evening Associate Degree Nursing Program (ADN).
- Berkshire Community College: A Recruitment/ Retention project for 22 students.
- Greenfield Community College: A Recruitment/Retention project for 27 nursing students.
- Holyoke Community College: An NCLEX preparation curriculum to be developed to teach NCLEX preparation to at-risk students. A potential 180-190 students will be able to participate in this prep course.
- The UMASS Amherst Future Faculty Initiative Project: A Nurse Education Expansion Initiative in which three acute care hospitals develop clinical articulations with UMASS Amherst to identify 4 BSN's committed to graduate nursing study to become faculty. These four RN's from local employers upon matriculating into the Master's Program will mentor 8 nursing students each year in the UMASS Amherst nursing program.
- The Hampden County Regional Employment Board in partnership with Holyoke Community College is currently working on the development of a Nurse Refresher Course.
- Regional Career Coach: A Bridge to Nursing Project where individuals interested in pursuing nursing as a career at Heritage Hall (a long-term care facility in western Mass), receive career coaching to address any barriers to success and to develop resources needed to address those barriers.

For more information on any of these projects, please contact Charles Bodhi, Hampden County Regional Employment Board, (413) 755-1361.