Maximize the Clinical Nurse Specialist educator role by positioning a 5-state nursing workforce to flourish by advancing baccalaureate nursing education

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Background

- Providence St. Joseph Health (PSJH) is located in seven states: Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Montana, California, New Mexico and Texas and employs 38,000 nurses.
- The University of Great Falls (UGF) is a ministry of PSJH and has a nationally accredited RN-BSN program that was started in 2008.
- The RN-BSN program accepts students only from PSJH because of the healthcare’s large internal pool of nurses and has taken seriously the need to meet Institute of Medicine’s recommendation of 80% of BSN prepared nurses by 2020.

CNS Role in Education & Practice

- A doctorally-prepared CNS is employed by PH&S to practice as an advance practice nurse and serve as Chair for Nursing & Health Programs for UGF.
- The position maximizes the CNS scope of practice & competencies by:
  - Leading a RN-BSN program and developing other nursing and health related programs to help address the workforce development issues that exist within PSJH.
  - Expert consultant in pressure ulcer prevention across the healthcare system and health continuum in seven states.

Unique qualities of the RN-BSN Program

- Based on a partnership between healthcare & academia; PSJH can ‘grow’ their own nurse leaders at the undergraduate level.
- The Capstone Project:
  - Chosen from a menu of nurse sensitive indicators approved by the PSJH Regional Chief Nurse Officers.
  - The courses include two semesters: Capstone I & Capstone II.
  - Student benefit: An opportunity to learn about change and quality improvement using actual workplace healthcare issues/challenges.
  - PH&S benefit: Bedside nurses help make change to positively improve patient care at the point of care.

Current & Future Academic Programs Created by CNS:

- Fall 2015: Applied Health Informatics Certificate Program
- Spring 2017: Master of Science in Organizational Leadership / Healthcare Administration
- Fall 2017: Master of Science in Infection Prevention & Epidemiology.
- Fall 2018: Master of Science in Nursing Education, Administration or a dual degree
- Fall 2019: Master of Science in Nursing, Nurse Practitioner