

Partners in Nursing of Central Illinois

PIN OF CI

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- Partnership activities and interest expands
- Information brought to regional consortium of nursing schools and clinical sites
- Learn of nursing shortage solutions across the country. *What PIN of CI developments are attracting national attention to a solution out of central Illinois? (p. 2)*

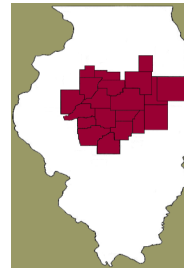
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PIN of CI Shared Throughout Region

The Partners in Nursing of Central Illinois (PIN of CI) project continues to be shared with numerous community groups across the region. The PIN national program is unique in providing funding directly to local foundations for coordination of projects and programs developed in collaboration with nursing leaders and other community partners. The involvement of community leaders and organizations is imperative for program success. According to Myra

Gordon, Executive Director of The Illinois Prairie Community Foundation, "Partners in Nursing has given the Community Foundation a wonderful opportunity to be involved in working on the nursing shortage problem and to expand our own network of partners in building local philanthropy in central Illinois." Most recently, PIN



of CI goals and activities were outlined for the Advisory Council of the Teaching Nursing Home Project, donors through the Illinois Prairie Community Foundation, the Sunset Rotary Club, and a local chapter of the Philanthropic Education Organization (P.E.O.).

If you know of an organization that may be interested in learning more about regional nursing issues and activities addressing our local needs, please contact Kelli Hill (see page 2.)

Online Clinical Scheduling Being Investigated

The ability to network nationwide with other PIN regions addressing local nursing shortages is proving beneficial for central Illinois. Kelli Hill, PIN of CI Director, met with Deb Center of the Colorado PIN project regarding their incorporation of an interactive web-based clinical placement system. This system has the ability to track and coordinate actual and potential placements for nursing students training in clinical environments. The system allows organizations to maximize current clinical place-

ments and to explore new opportunities.

PIN of CI has coordinated an April webinar presentation of this system to a regional consortium of nursing schools and clinical sites. Upon learning about this system, representatives from counties such as Fulton, LaSalle, McDonough, McLean, and Peoria were interested in hearing more details. According to Margaret Swanson, Dean, Health Careers & Peoria Campus, Illinois Central

College, "This consortium is a forum to share information. Once the information is shared, then specific institutions, groups, or entities can make informed decisions if they wish to incorporate the ideas." Though approximately a dozen regions nationwide are already using this system, online coordination of clinical experiences would be cutting edge for our state. The PIN of CI project is dedicated to continued exploration of resources for the nursing workforce in central Illinois.

Unique PIN Solutions Developed Nationwide

The twenty-one PIN projects across the United States offer a wide range of solutions to the nursing shortage. Each has identified causes unique to its region, and is in the development and/or implementation stages of specifically targeted activities. PIN partnerships offer wonderful opportunities to learn of innovative solutions.

The Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Foundation and Michigan State University College of Nursing identified nurses who are planning to leave/retire from the profession as integral resources. An RN Career Transition Program will seek to extend the life span of a nursing career by transitioning experienced nurses into roles in community based settings.

In Butte, Montana, recruiting nursing students from this mining town's workforce is the first step in addressing geographical retention. A

negative experience in the first 18 months of employment as a new nurse was also found to threaten commitment to the profession. An Academy for Advanced Nursing Workforce Solutions will focus on "success skills" - interpersonal and survival skills which aim to equip BSN and ASN graduates with competencies to meet professional challenges as they enter the workforce.

Con Alma Health Foundation, New Mexico Community Foundation, and the University of New Mexico Hospitals realized their state has the most significant shortage of health professionals in the nation. Through PIN, a pipeline program will identify and recruit ethnically diverse nursing students. Free academic tutoring and nurse mentors will help build and retain this segment of the workforce.

Though each region's nursing short-



age is somewhat unique, many causes are universal and aspects of solutions are replicable. The sharing of ideas and results is invaluable.

An innovative use of federal funds to encourage central Illinois nurses to pursue a PhD has created much interest among the PIN national community. Our regional nursing leaders confirmed the need for doctorally-prepared nurses able to instruct in masters programs which produce nursing faculty. Watch for further developments as our own PIN of CI creates nursing workforce models for our nation!



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Partners Investing in Nursing's Future is a nationwide collaborative effort of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Northwest Health Foundation to encourage regions to address their local nursing shortages through community partnerships. Partners in Nursing of Central Illinois (PIN of CI) received a two year grant to oversee these regional efforts. The PIN of CI is led by the Illinois Prairie Community Foundation and Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University.

For more information on the national program, visit www.partnersinnursing.org.

