What do you and your partner need to know about you and your organization?
The faculty and staff of the University of Iowa College of Nursing (CON) and the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics (UIHC) Department of Nursing (DON) have had a formal partnership for a number of years and have extensive knowledge of each other’s organizations. This long-standing collaboration, known as the University of Iowa Nursing Collaboratory (UINC), continues with ongoing updates of our goals, activities, and outcome measures.

What is the right partnership activity for you and your partner?
Activities within this partnership include those that enhance practice, teaching, research and informatics.

What documents about your organization might be helpful to bring to the meeting?
Previous MOU’s and Agreements have been provided to all participants, along with the CONs current strategic plan and Annual Reports for the past few years and the DON strategic plan and recent Magnet review materials (which was positive).

What do you have to offer?
The CON and the DON provide joint leadership in the four identified areas, practice, teaching, research and informatics. For example, activities related to research and evidence based practice are led by the CON Associate Dean for Research and the CON Director of Nursing Research and Evidence-Based Practice.

What is your vision for this partnership and does your partner share this vision?
The University of Iowa Nurse Collaboratory (UINC) have a shared vision. The vision from our MOU’s and Agreements includes:

“The University of Iowa Nursing Collaboratory (UINC) was created to provide an infrastructure for the CON and the DON to work together in the generation, dissemination, and application of knowledge for the improvement of practice and patient outcomes. The UINC is a strategic partnership, operationalized through an organizational structure, to promote collaboration in the areas of education, practice, informatics and research. The UINC provides a supportive environment for collaboration between the CON and DON to:

- Deliver effective health care services,
- Promote entrepreneurship,
- Enhance the education of all levels of professional nursing especially via opportunities afforded by the Nursing Clinical Education Center (NCEC), and
- Generate and apply scientific and professional knowledge (through support of research and evidence based practice).”

Who else needs to be involved in both organizations? Is top leadership involved?
Top leadership is involved from both organizations, including the Dean and the Associate Deans for Research and Academic Affairs in the CON and the Chief Nursing Officer and the Directors of Practice, Education and Research in the DON.

What is the business case for the partnership?
The business plan for the collaborative includes the mutual support of the Nursing Clinical Education Center, joint support of grants to support research and EBP projects, and recent partnerships for dual appointments and funding of staff in the designated education units.
Do you have clarity on goals and vision?
Yes, the faculty and staff of the CON and DON are aligned in their goals and vision, with the overall goal to develop and promote innovations in education, practice, informatics, and research.

What are the details and timeline of the initiative?
The details are included in the MOUs and Agreement. Examples of future collaborative projects identified include:

- **Research:** a) Identify additional pilot funding for joint UIHC-CON research grants; b) Continue to develop Scholarly Interest Groups (SIG) (Implementation, Writing, Pain, Genetics) with UIHC staff and CON membership; c) Continue to support collaborative research projects and publications.

- **Education:** a) DEU: Analyze outcome data for initial two DEU’s, expand to specialty DEUs in 2014-15, implement options to successfully recruit and retain clinical instructors, offer more efficient orientation to DEU’s, submit experience for presentations and publication; b) Clinical Simulation in NCEC: Develop a certified simulation educators, standardize education for instructors who use simulation, re-evaluate policies and procedures for the use of simulation, expand the use of simulation for student and staff education, implement opportunities to bring external revenue-generating programs or services into the NCEC; c) Develop research study to formally evaluate outcomes of nurse residency program.

- **Practice:** a) Develop an Advanced Practice Residency Program, and launch it in 2014; b) Facilitate collaborations between CON Faculty Practice and UIHC practice units

- **Informatics:** a) Update nursing database for Epic with most recent NIC and NOC content; b) Develop algorithm for accessing EPIC data warehouse for nursing research.

Whom can we call for expert consultation if need be?
The University of Iowa has a number of expert consultants in all areas that are available for consultation if needed.

What are the expected outcomes of the activity?
As this collaboration moves forward, multiple outcomes are expected and described above under each of the four imitative areas. In addition, multiple presentations and publications will result from these collaborations.

Is this the right time for this partnership?
Yes. This partnership was first formalized in 1999. However, the last agreement expired in 2010, although the intent and structure described in that agreement has continued. In the past five years, multiple leadership, organizational and policy changes have occurred at both institutions. Critical to the success of this ongoing collaboration is the ongoing updating of the UINC Agreement and the purpose and goals of each area. Meetings of the entire leadership group provide partnered vision and proposed activities within each of the four areas of collaboration: research, practice, education and informatics.

What are the issues that will facilitate or impede the development of the partnership?
The primary factor that will facilitate the ongoing functioning of the UINC is the strong history of this partnership. Each of the four areas has had impressive successes and the co-leaders are committed to continuing the collaborations. There really aren’t any impediments to the ongoing success of the UINC.

What is the time commitment for the partners?
The UINC has developed so that the time that each leader and participant invests in the UINC is an integral part of their position in their primary unit. For example, when the Associate Dean for
Research and CON faculty partner with staff from the DON on research, this is what is expected of all parties.

**Whose time will be required?**
The leadership of both the CON and DON and the faculty and staff of both organizations provide time, or effort, for the success of the UINC. The UINC is composed of Collaborative Leadership Groups (CLG) for each of the four areas (practice, teaching, research and informatics) and each CLG has co-leaders, one from the CON and one from the DON. For example, the Research CLG is co-led by the CON Associate Dean of Research and the DON Director of Research and EBP.

**When will the meetings be scheduled?**
The CLGs along with the CON Dean and the UIHC CNO meet quarterly to review the goals, activities, and outcome measures within each of the four areas and make changes as needed in these goals, activities, and outcome measures.

**What space is required for the activity?**
No separate space is needed for the UINC. Faculty at the CON and staff at UIHC move fluidly between the CON and UIHC as needed to implement the activities within each of the four areas (practice, teaching, research and informatics). One of the unique projects within the UNIC is the Nursing Clinical Education Center (NCEC), a state of the art education simulation lab, located in UIHC but jointly funded, managed and utilized by the CON and DON for student and staff nursing education.

**What equipment or supplies are needed?**
There is no equipment needed that is specific to the UINC.

**What money is needed?**
The CON and DON have jointly funded the UINC. The joint funding has supported personnel, space and operational expenses.

**Where are we meeting?**
The quarterly meetings of the CLGs take place in a meeting room on campus, convenient for all involved.

**Where will we present outcomes?**
A number of publications have resulted from the UINC. Attached are two examples, the original article describing the UINC and the most recent article on the Iowa Model of EBP. Other collaborative projects have been presented and published in multiple venues over the life of the UINC.

**What are the policies or regulatory issues that will impede or facilitate development of the partnership on both sides?**
Policies within each organization will facilitate the ongoing partnership. To date, there have been no policies that have impeded this successful collaboration. Leadership has integrated regulatory policies from certification and licensing bodies into all joint activities.

**How will the partnership be funded?**
The CON and DON have shared all expenses. For example, the NCEC, the education simulation lab, is located in UIHC but jointly funded, managed and utilized by the CON and DON. The DON provides the space, upkeep, utilities, infrastructure and information technology support. The
CON provides the equipment and disposable supplies. Both the CON and DON fund staff in the NCEC.

**What are the constraints of both partners?**
The CON must meet the expectations of the Provost and overall University of Iowa administration, including the Regents of the state of Iowa. The DON must meet the expectations of the UIHC administrators. These are not always in alignment.

**What history do the partners have with each other and each others’ institutions?**
As seen in this application, the CON and DON have an extensive history together.