

# Building the Pipeline: Increasing Students' Preparation for Nursing through Outreach Programs

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## Background/Introduction

- Outreach programs have shown success in helping diverse and/or underrepresented students prepare for college.
- Upward Bound, funded by the U.S. Department of Education to increase educational opportunities and diminish barriers to college access and completion for first-generation, low-income high school students.
- President Lyndon B. Johnson's War on Poverty Act and the Educational Opportunity Act of 1964.

## Purpose

- Educate high school students on the role of the nurse and inspire them to consider a career in nursing.

## Goals

Participants will:

- Be better prepared to succeed in college.
- Understand the nursing role, and opportunities available.
- Envision themselves attending college and as a practicing nurse.



Upward Bound High School Nursing Students

## Methods

- Over the past seven years, the College of Nursing has hosted approximately 90 rising 9th-12th grade participants for a summer nursing immersion experience.
- 88% were from underrepresented minority groups.

## Results

Of the 55 graduating Upward Bound high school seniors (summers 2017, 2018, and 2019):

- 37 Entered college
- 8 Declared Nursing as their major



## Limitations

Limited access to Upward Bound students once they leave the program.

## Conclusions

- Colleges of nursing are positioned to offer outreach programs to help underrepresented and disadvantaged students prepare for higher education and to see themselves in the nursing role
- Developing a diverse nursing workforce will increase nurses' ability to address the social determinants of health (SDOH) and improve access to care and health equity.
- Further research in collaboration with pipeline programming in inner city schools and a healthcare partners is underway.

## Next Steps

- Future Nurse Academy -University Hospital's Summer Program for High School students interested in nursing.
- Explorers - Akron (Ohio) Public Schools.