



Complete This Template to Develop Your Academic-Practice Partnership Summary Document

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PLAYERS

Selecting Partners

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Preparing for Your First Meeting

Date/Time of Meeting

First Meeting 1966

Place of Meeting:

St. Elizabeth Healthcare

What do you and your partner need to know about you and your organization?

The relationship between Northern Kentucky University (NKU) and St. Elizabeth Healthcare (SEH) is a strong and symbiotic relationship that was initiated in 1966. The first meeting between NKU and SEH began when the NKU Associated Degree in Nursing program was started. A need for clinical sites for NKU nursing students brought the 2 partners together. NKU continued to grow throughout the years and expanded nursing programs. As NKU expanded the relationship between NKU and SEH became stronger with the sharing or increasingly more partnerships. Multiple initiatives are now facilitated between the 2 partners through a decentralized approach. Multifaceted initiatives are implemented through task forces, committees and subcommittees that include: 1) Theory-Practice Task Force (TPTF), 2) Regional Safety Task Force (RSTF), 3) Northern Kentucky Nursing & Interprofessional Research Collaborative (NKNIRC) and 4) Nurse Advocacy Center for the Underserved (NACU).

PARTNERSHIPS

Initial Meeting

What is the right partnership activity for you and your partner?

Since 1966, when the first meeting was held between NKU and SEH, the relationship between NKU and SEH has continued to grow. At first, the partnership was established as a means to acquire clinical sites for nursing students. The partnership has become a strong alliance and assumed a broader field of influence on nursing practice, education, research and the health of the community. NKU and SEH collaborated and identified areas where together the two organizations could make a difference and positively affect the health of people within the community.

What documents about your organization should you bring to the meeting?

During initial meetings between the 2 organizations, the mission and vision statements of each institution were shared. The strategic plan established by each organization was reviewed to identify common goals. Frequent review of the strategic goals and adjustment of the strategic plan for both organizations is completed annually and is an ongoing process.

What do you have to offer?

Both partners in this relationship have unique sets of characteristics and different types of resources that provide the two organizations with the ability to meet mutually identified goals. SEH is located in close geographic proximity to NKU which facilitates communication. Because of geographic commonality, local and regional community health needs are of shared concern. The university offers expertise in the area of nursing education, has a large library that is accessible to SEH employees and a statistical research center with doctoral prepared statisticians. With five facilities spread throughout the Northern Kentucky area, St. Elizabeth Healthcare offers 5 different clinical sites for nursing and allied health students. SEH is active in healthcare research and provides opportunity for students and faculty to engage in research studies in the clinical setting. SEH has expert practitioners with diverse backgrounds in different fields of healthcare who share their expertise in and outside the clinical environment with students and faculty at NKU. NKU faculty teach at SEH and SEH expert practitioners teach in selected courses at NKU.

What is your vision for this partnership and does your partner share this vision?

The vision of the partnership is a shared vision that is ongoing and continues to change and evolve as the surrounding healthcare environment changes.

The focus of the partnership that once started as a means for NKU to find clinical site for nursing students, has grown to focus on 4 major partnership goals:

1. Maintenance of a collaborative relationship to foster excellence in nursing practice.
2. Promotion of the advancement of nursing education
3. Meeting the health needs of underserved communities
4. Fostering talent development through mentoring and dissemination of knowledge

The vision is for the partnership between NKU and SEH to continue to evolve.

Who else needs to be involved in both organizations? Is top leadership involved?

This partnership involves the participation of multiple stakeholders that includes leadership from above and also a decentralized approach with participation of faculty, nurses and students. The vision is carried out through involvement of stakeholders that filters through the many different hierarchical ranks within both institutions.

1. The Dean of the College of Health Professions, Nursing Chairs within the College of Health Professions, the Senior Vice President, Chief Patient Service Officer/Chief Nursing Officer, the Vice President, Associate Chief Nursing Officers (2), Director of Nursing Research SEH, Director of Northern Kentucky Nursing Research Collaborative, Director of Nurse Advocacy Center for the Underserved, Nurse Educators from SEH, NKU Faculty, Practicing SEH nurses, Nursing Students and Allied Health Students.

What is the business case for the partnership?

Both partners share in the funding of the multiple initiatives that are facilitated through the partnership. Resources are shared in a way that benefits each partner.

Exemplars:

1. The Director of the NKNIRC is a jointly funded position that is shared between NKU and SEH .
2. Costs of the educational workshops, research conferences and poster presentations are shared between partners.
3. Resources including large conference rooms for large conferences are shared between partners.
4. Printing and library resources at NKU are shared with SEH.
5. The Burkhardt statistical Center at NKU is available to SEH employees.

Subsequent Meetings

Do you have clarity on goals and vision?

Goals and vision of this partnership are very clear. SEH and NKU have written strategic plans with goals. The NKNIRC and NACU have clear strategic plans that are reviewed and updated each year. Committees and subcommittees submit yearly reports of work accomplished and establish goals for each upcoming year.

What are the details and time line of the initiative?

Written contracts are in place for established initiatives. The length of contracts may vary based on the type of initiative.

Exemplars: Contracts are made for educational cohorts depending on the length of academic programs. A three year contract is in place for the sharing of the PhD prepared NKNIRC director.

Whom can we call for expert consultation if needed?

Statisticians are available through the Burkhardt Center at NKU to assist with research data set up and interpretation.

SEH has a grant writer and NKU has a grant department with experts available to assist with grant writing.

The librarian at NKU is available to NKU and SEH employees for consultation.

The Director of the Northern Kentucky Health Department is available for consultation about public health related needs.

What are the expected outcomes of the activity?

The vision of the collaborative academic partnership is for NKU and SEH to maintain the relationship between NKU and SEH to foster positive outcomes in the areas of nursing education, practice, research and community health in alignment with the identified partnership goals.

ENVIRONMENT

Time

Is this the right time for this partnership?

The partnership was established in 1966 and has continued to grow and become stronger. With the changing needs of the current healthcare environment and financial restraints healthcare agencies and academic institutions face in today's healthcare environment, sharing of resources is essential for institutions to sustain quality services and adequate population health. Within this partnership sharing of resources has resulted in the strengthening of both organizations.

What are the issues that will facilitate or impede the development of the partnership?

Finding adequate financial resources to support proposed projects and research studies is challenging. A grant writer at SEH and a grant department at NKU are available to assist with finding additional funding.

What is the time commitment for the partners?

The involvement of university employees and SEH employees in this partnership occur at many different levels. Leadership meet quarterly within the SEH and NKU advisory boards. Because many of the activities of this partnership are decentralized and occur within designated committees and subcommittees, the time commitment varies and depends on the initiative being pursued. NKU and SEH leadership support involvement of employees in collaborative efforts and allow time for employees to attend meetings and to be involved in committee work.

The Director of the NKNIRC commits 20 hours per week work at NKU and 20 hours at SEH to facilitate the partnership between NKU and SEH.

Whose time will be required?

Multiple stakeholders are involved in the partnership:

Leadership

Practicing Nurses

Allied Health Professionals

Students

Faculty

When will the meetings be scheduled?

Leadership meets on a quarterly basis.

Committees and subcommittees meet at least monthly or more depending on the projects that are being completed.

ENVIRONMENT

Space

What space is required for the activity?

Space for meetings, workshops and large conferences is available at both organizations. In fact, this partnership is blessed with having access to adequate space and facilities for educational events free of charge. The Dolwick Center at SEH and the Student Union at NKU provide excellent spaces for educational events. SEH has purchased a new Educational Center that will increase the availability of additional space for workshops and conferences. SEH has a Center for Nursing Excellence that provides additional office space when needed and NKU has conference room space available.

What equipment and supplies are needed?

The equipment and supplies that are needed for the partnership are adequate. Workspaces and classrooms with Wi Fi are available at NKU and SEH. SEH has computer labs and NKU also has computer labs. Simulation labs are available at both facilities if needed.

What money is needed?

The NKNIRC Director of Nursing Research position is funded through a grant provided by SEH. A goal of this partnership is to increase grant funding within the next years. Funding to support increased research to expand the base of knowledge to improve community health issues is a priority.

Where are we meeting?

Meetings are held at SEH and at NKU. Individual committees identify the place of each meeting. Many committees alternate between the 2 settings for meetings. The close geographic location between the 2 organizations makes travel time of 15 to 20 minutes depending on traffic between facilities.

Where will we present outcomes?

Annual Nursing Research Conference are held where results of research is presented. Annual poster presentations are held. Writing for Publication Classes has increased the number of publications that are being generated. Increasing the number of publications to disseminate research and results of clinical projects is a future goal of this partnership.

ENVIRONMENT

Regulation

What are the policies or regulatory issues that will impede or facilitate development of the partnership on both sides?

The only impediment to the successful growth of this partnership will be the ability to access financial funding for future projects. Finding financial funding presents a future challenge.

Context

How will the partnership be funded?

The partners fund salaries, benefits, equipment for employees who are involved in partnership projects.

The NKNIRC Director position is a jointly funded position between NKU and SEH.

Rho theta contributes funds for research awards and workshops.

A major goal in the future is to secure more grant funding to support the cost of future projects and research.

What are the constraints of both partners?

Access to adequate financial resources is the largest constraint that may impair the future growth of this partnership. Expansion of future education, research and community projects will be dependent of acquiring adequate financing.

What history do the partners have with each other and each others' institutions?

The two organizations have worked together since 1966. The scope of the activities the partners share has continued to expand throughout the past years. The major shared initiatives at this time include the: 1) Theory-Practice Task Force (TPTF), 2) Regional Safety Task Force (RSTF), 3) Northern Kentucky Nursing & Interprofessional Research Collaborative (NKNIRC) and 4) Nurse Advocacy Center for the Underserved (NACU).

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