



University of Tennessee Knoxville College of Nursing and Cherokee Health Systems Description of the Academic-Practice

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville College of Nursing (CON) and Cherokee Health Systems (CHS), working in Academic-Practice (A-P) partnership through the Health Resources Service Administration (HRSA) Transforming RN Roles in Community-Based Integrated Primary Care through Academic-Practice Partnership (TRIP) grant, is training students, RNs, and faculty to practice at the full scope of their license in community-based integrated primary care (CBIPC) settings serving culturally diverse rural and underserved populations. This partnership was formed to meet the unprecedented need for RNs to expand their roles in preventative, primary, and chronic care. Our A-P partnership demonstrates an innovative and sustained relationship that extends beyond clinical placements.

Academic Partner, University of Tennessee College of Nursing

The mission of the CON is to optimize health through nurse-led care by integrating education, practice, research, and technology. As part of this mission, the CON has numerous A-P and community partnerships to improve health for all. There are over 1,000 students in BSN, RN-to-BSN, MSN, DNP and PhD programs, 140 faculty and \$2,266,240 in funding.

Community-based Partner, Cherokee Health Systems

CHS is a non-profit organization with 24 clinics that provide CBIPC, behavioral health, and addiction services to over 78,000 people per year across the state of Tennessee. Each clinic is a Federally Qualified Health Center, located in urban or rural, underserved, and HPSA designated counties. CHS has a national reputation as a pioneer and leader in integrated primary care.

A-P Partnership Goals and Results

The A-P partnership has been developed over three years and is moving to sustainability within both organizations following Year 4. The goals and results of the first three years are below:

- 1.) Expand A-P partnership between the CON and CHS to immerse recruited junior- and senior-level Bachelor of Science (BSN) students in CBIPC team clinical experiences in culturally diverse rural and underserved settings. Through the grant partnership, 21 BSN students have completed training, sixteen have completed junior year and are entering senior year; and sixteen students will begin their junior year this fall. Students are immersed in CBIPC interprofessional teams caring for urban and rural underserved populations for over 400 hours.
- 2.) Build and implement an innovative BSN curricular model to include didactic and longitudinal clinical training in primary care emphasizing chronic disease prevention and control, recovery-based mental health and substance use, and childhood obesity for culturally diverse rural and underserved populations in collaboration with interprofessional teams. The College of Nursing undergraduate curriculum has been transformed with 248 students have learned CBIPC concepts). The curricular model is being mapped to AACN "New Essentials."
- 3.) Develop the RN workforce (practicing nurses and faculty) to transform primary care through professional leadership development in primary care and leadership training. In 2019, the first cohort of 22 RNs and faculty members completed 12 days of training. A new cohort of 22 RNs and faculty members will complete 9 days of training beginning in Fall 2021.