

## **Learn Where You Live: Distance Accessible CNS Program**

**Principal Investigator:** Janet S. Fulton, PhD

**Dates of Support:** 2006-2009

**Funding Agency:** HRSA

### **Abstract**

The purpose of this project is to significantly expand the highly regarded Adult Health Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) major of the Masters of Science in Nursing program at Indiana University School of Nursing (IUSON). Graduates will be advanced practice nurses who will help meet complex health care needs of individuals, families and groups. Learn Where You Live: Distance Accessible CNS Program will build on an existing Indiana University eight regional campus system and will incorporate existing distance education technology that links the campuses. Forty-two percent of Indiana's counties are designated rural, and over half of those have HPSA and/or MUA designations. It is anticipated that students recruited from and educated in these rural and underserved communities will choose to practice in the same communities upon graduation, this the proposed project will increase the number of advanced practice nurses in communities where residents continue to experience disparities in health care access and in health status. Graduates of the program will be eligible to sit for the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Medical-Surgical CNS examination. Six objectives are proposed: 1) implement a distance accessible clinical nurse specialist program that prepares graduates to provide evidence-based, cost-effective, innovative nursing interventions; 2) annually recruit, select, enroll and graduate 15 qualified students, including students of minority racial and ethnic background; 3) expand the current cadre of clinical preceptors for the purpose of providing on-site clinical supervision in the development of CNS practice competencies; 4) increase the influence of CNS practice on the health of citizens in the state of Indiana thereby increasing advanced nursing care for rural and underserved populations in the state; 5) design, develop, implement and evaluate strategies that enhance the cultural competency and sensitivity of the CNS workforce, and; 6) design, develop, implement and evaluate a program to recruit children into health careers with targeted activities for potential students of minority, racial and ethnic backgrounds. The project addresses the goals of Healthy People 2010 and links with the HRSA's Kids Into Health Careers Initiative and the National Center for Cultural Competence. The project is supported by the deans and directors of undergraduate nursing programs on the IU regional campuses, the leadership of the Indiana Organization of Nurse Executives, and Nursing 2000, a state-wide collaborative whose mission is meet the nursing workforce needs of Indiana. Process and outcome evaluation methods will be used in formative and summative project evaluations. Maps, interviews, and follow-up surveys with graduates and employers will be used to track the state-wide geographic impact of the program. Results of the program will disseminated at local, regional, and national meetings. Other universities that have regional, satellite campuses, or community colleges networks could adapt this project for other purposes. The innovative online preceptor training and mentoring program can be adapted for other advanced practice programs seeking to develop and retain graduate student preceptors. With the support of PHS Title VIII funding, the "learn where you live" focus of this grant combines the wealth of resources of a major state university with a advanced practice nursing program – clinical nurse specialist, ranked 4th in the nation (U.S. News and World Report) – to the rural and underserved communities of the state thereby providing the citizens of the state fuller access to the resources of the state.

### **Performance Site(s)**

Indiana University School of Nursing  
Indianapolis, Indiana

### **Key Personnel:**

Fulton, Jan

Indiana University

Faculty