

Legislative Support for the

North Dakota Nursing Education Consortium

ND CENTER FOR NURSING BOARD OF DIRECTORS

North Dakota Nurses
Association

College and University Nurse
Education Administrators

North Dakota Area Health
Education Center

North Dakota Emergency
Nurses Association

North Dakota Organization
for Nursing Leadership

North Dakota Board of
Nursing

North Dakota Nurse
Practitioners Association

North Dakota Public Health
Association, Nursing Section

Nursing Student Association
of North Dakota

North Dakota Directors of
Nursing Administration-
Long Term Care

Sigma Xi Kappa at Large
Chapter

North Dakota Association of
Nurse Anesthetists

Public/Consumer Member at
Large

40+ Nursing organizations,
state agencies, nursing
program and other
stakeholders are members of
the ND Center for Nursing
Leadership Team

The North Dakota Center for Nursing, a non-profit 501c3 organization, was developed in 2011 to represent over 20,000 nurses and over 40 nursing organizations across North Dakota. The mission of the North Dakota Center for Nursing is through collaboration guide ongoing development of a well-prepared and diverse nursing workforce to meet health care needs in North Dakota through research, education, recruitment and retention, advocacy and public policy. This policy agenda has been approved by our Board of Directors and is an official policy of the North Dakota Center for Nursing.

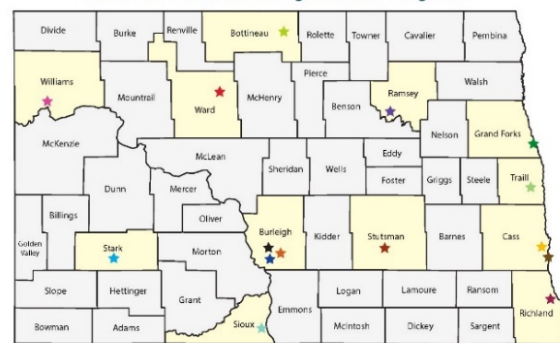
Since 2009, the Nursing Education Consortium (Century Code 15-11-39) has received funding to support simulation across all nursing programs in North Dakota. This support has been instrumental to increasing student's ability to practice critical nursing skills in a safe environment where learning can occur. With increased student enrollment, simulation has been utilized to help alleviate strain on packed clinical sites. Since COVID-19, high-fidelity and virtual simulation has been accelerated to prepare students for practice in a dramatically changed health care world. Health care is more sophisticated, and complex today than it was only 10 years ago.

The North Dakota Center for Nursing supports the movement of the critical ND Nursing Education Consortium (NEC) funding within SB 2003 from the University of North Dakota budget to the ND University System budget at the same funding level as last biennium (2021-2023: \$1,320,023).

North Dakota currently has fifteen nursing education programs including preparation for LPN, RN, Advanced Practice Nurses and other graduate education programs.

Since the inception of funding for the Nursing Education Consortium, the number of LPN students (333 to 417) have increased 25% and RN students (1,394 to 1,830) by 31%.

2019 North Dakota Nursing Education Programs



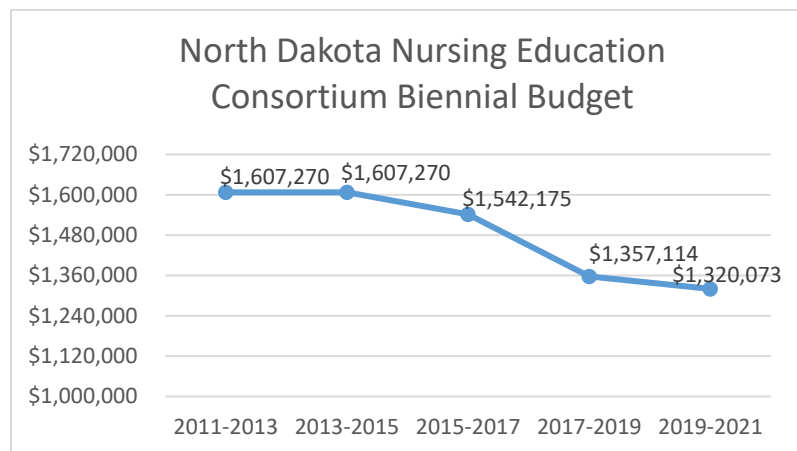
- ★ Bismarck State College
- ★ Dakota College at Bottineau
- ★ Dickinson State University
- ★ Lake Region State College
- ★ Mayville State University
- ★ Minot State University
- ★ North Dakota State College of Science
- ★ North Dakota State University
- ★ NDSU at Sanford Health
- ★ Rasmussen College
- ★ Sitting Bull College
- ★ University of Jamestown
- ★ University of Mary
- ★ University of North Dakota
- ★ Williston State College

Need for Continued Funding

- Simulation is time-intensive for faculty and programs do not have adequate equipment.
- The National Council of State Boards of Nursing allows up to 50% of clinical simulation time to replace clinicals. ND programs are not positioned to increase to that level.
- COVID-19 has negatively impacted access to clinical sites. ND Nursing programs were able to transition to more simulation during the pandemic due to historical access to simulation consortium funding.
- The cost of simulators has risen over the last ten years. Simulators also require extensive warranties, ongoing maintenance and regular replacement (every 7 years).
- Health care delivery is more sophisticated than 10 years ago and patient acuity has risen.
- Virtual clinicals are safely utilized when access to clinical sites are limited to keep students on track to their expected graduation. This new modality incurs a per student cost to nursing education programs.
- Nursing students with simulation experience are better prepared to adapt to the current work environment.

Historical Consortium Budget

After the initial planning years (2009-2011 was funded at \$500,000), the Consortium budget has decreased due to its placement inside the University of North Dakota funding and statewide budget cuts. UND advised CUNEA in 2019 that the funding would be better administered by the NDUS System Office. Simulation equipment funding is divided amongst North Dakota's nursing education programs.



What would happen without continued NEC Funding?

- Our university would struggle in the long-term and our ability to use Simulation would dwindle, and potentially become nonexistent.
- This would potentially result in decreased enrollment of students which would result in a worsening shortage.
- This would present a safety issue- students are able to practice high-risk situations prior to going to their clinical site. They are also able to practice complex scenarios which they may not encounter in their clinical experiences.
- Rural satellite locations would suffer as simulation provides the opportunity to experience encounters not always available in rural settings.
- Lack of simulation puts more pressure on clinical sites as students would need more skills practice within health care facilities.

For more information about the ND Nursing Education Consortium (NEC): Dr. Carla Gross, President, College and University Nursing Education Administrators at carla.gross@ndsu.edu