



School of NURSING

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House Committee on Higher Education & Workforce
State Legislature
Salem

School of Nursing
Monmouth Campus

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Thank you Chair Reardon, Vice Chairs Alonso Leon and Whisnant, and Members of the Committee for allowing me to submit this testimony regarding House Bill 2540.

I am the Campus Associate Dean for the OHSU School of Nursing regional campus in Monmouth and I would like to present information on our program and its impact in the local area.

OHSU Monmouth Campus

- Monmouth Campus opened as OHSU's 5th regional campus in 2008. The location, on Western Oregon University's campus, is only 20 minutes from Salem.
- OHSU Monmouth, as an OCNE partner, is committed to the provision of public university baccalaureate nursing education in the local community and we attract most of our applicants from the local area. In our applicant pool for the 2017 intake, the largest residence location of applicants is Salem.
- We offer a Bachelor of Science with a Major in Nursing. Students enter into their sophomore year having completed pre-requisite courses at local colleges. These students then complete a three-year full time program that delivers all course work on our local campus. The structure of the OCNE curriculum ensures that students also have considerable clinical exposure, both in the local hospitals and in the community.

Curriculum & Teaching Approach

- Monmouth campus is proud to be a key partner within OCNE. We share current, evidence based and stimulating program content and benchmarks with our partner schools. Within this framework, we have tremendous scope for each school to tailor their teaching to best meet local need. Our campus has had great success with innovative delivery models and approaches to teaching. We consider this local flexibility one of the OCNE hallmarks.
- OCNE students are exposed to a depth of faculty expertise and clinical practice. On our campus, students are taught, in part, by faculty who also teach in OHSU PhD, Nurse Practitioner and Masters in Nursing

programs. This direct access to faculty active in post baccalaureate education exposes students to the philosophy of lifelong learning and has created opportunity for students to work alongside faculty in their research effort. The outcomes speak for themselves: in our class due to graduate in June 2017, three have already been accepted for graduate school in Oregon, including a Latina student from Salem who was supported through our diversity effort.

Students

- We want to expand on success like this for disadvantaged students. To increase diversity, our campus has developed an active outreach program. This was initially funded by a Nursing Workforce Diversity grant but we continue this work unfunded to ensure that all prospective applicants see the opportunity for lifelong learning. Current outreach includes visiting local schools with high Latino populations and holding open days where these students visit our campus, meet faculty, staff and students, see clinical simulation activities and receive guidance on interview techniques to promote their chances of success.
- In the last 3-4 years, we have seen steady increases in the diversity of our students with over 20% of our 2016 intake coming from underrepresented minority backgrounds. In addition, over 60% of our students report educational or economic disadvantage.
- We have very little attrition from the program and our students graduate and work in the local area. Currently, most of our alumni are working in the Salem area.

We intake 32 students per year and I check periodically with our clinical partners to ensure we are meeting their need for baccalaureate nurses. To date, no clinical partner has requested an increase in baccalaureate enrollment. In summary, I believe that OHSU Monmouth campus and the current OCNE model fulfills local baccalaureate need.

Sincerely,



Angie Docherty, NursD, MPH, RN