

## News Release

# NWTC Receives Grant to Increase Diversity within the Nursing Workforce

GREEN BAY (July 15, 2021) – Northeast Wisconsin Technical College has been awarded a \$1.8 million grant by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to provide aid to its students faced with economic barriers and increase diversity within the nursing workforce.

NWTC's grant proposal, *Educating Aspiring Registered Nurses (EARN)*, will focus on increasing the number of underserved students on track to graduate from the Associate Degree Nursing program.

"Our hope is to increase our student's motivation and ability to excel in their academic journey by helping them see their accomplishments and providing the tools to overcome any barriers to their success," said Brian Krogh, NWTC associate dean of health & sciences.

According to the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, registered nurses rank #4 in occupations with the largest number of projected openings from now through 2028. Today, racial diversity among employed registered nurses in Brown County is low (268 employees) compared to the national average for a region of this size (1,242 employees).

"Nurses typically have the most face time with patients than any other caregiver, so it's important that these front-line workers are representative of our growing diverse community that they serve," said Cynthia Theys, NWTC associate dean of health & sciences

**ABOUT NWTC:** Established in 1912, Northeast Wisconsin Technical College is a two-year technical college with three campuses, five regional learning centers, and several specialty centers throughout a nine-county district. Serving over 24,000 students annually, the College offers flexible degrees, classes, and training in over 200 high demand career fields via in-person, online, and blended instruction. Ninety-one percent of NWTC graduates are employed within six months of graduation. Additionally, hundreds of alumni continue their education through NWTC's transfer agreements with over 40 other colleges/universities. The College is nationally recognized for student success having earned the 2020 Achieving the Dream (ATD) Leader College of Distinction status, 2021 ATD Leah Meyer Austin Award, 2021 Bellwether consortium finalist recognition, and 2019 INSIGHT Into Diversity Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award. NWTC, home of the Eagles, believes everyone - no matter where they are in their personal and professional journeys - can soar higher.

Over the course of four years, *EARN* will assist 50 students in obtaining their nursing associate degree through NWTC. Students who are of racial minority, low-income, and educationally underserved will be eligible.

Participants of *EARN* will develop a personalized career plan and receive financial aid, mentorship, professional networking opportunities, and more.

**Registration for fall 2021 classes** is available now. Visit **NWTC's Nursing Associate Degree** to start your career and make a difference in the lives of your community.

The EARN (Educating Aspiring Registered Nurses) project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) through a four-year grant award totaling \$1,874,469 with 0% percentage financed with non-governmental sources. The contents are those of the authors(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, not an endorsement, by HRSA, HHS, or the U.S. Government. For more information, please visit [HRSA.gov](https://www.hrsa.gov)

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