

Northwest Health FOUNDATION

Solving the Nursing Workforce Crisis Is Good for Oregon's Economy

The Problem:

The shortage of registered nurses in Oregon is widespread and its impact is enormous. No other professional group is in higher demand than nurses, and few others offer the benefits of the nursing profession. Alleviating the nursing workforce shortage makes economic sense for Oregon.

The Numbers:

48	Average age of Oregon nurse.
11,000	The number of current nurses expected to retire by 2020.
14,000	The estimated number of new nurses Oregon will need in the next 10 years to meet growing demand for healthcare services.
695	Number of graduates of Oregon's nursing schools in 2001.
1,177	Number of graduates of Oregon's nursing schools in 2007.
\$50,200	Oregon median household income.
\$68,990	Average nurse's salary in Oregon.
\$8 million	Estimated increase in new annual tax revenue to Oregon if the nursing shortage were resolved.
\$233 million	Increased economic benefit to local communities annually if the nursing shortage were resolved.
18	The number of employers in Oregon in the top 50 that are hospitals or health systems, supporting 90,000 employees.
1	The number of Hynix plants attracted to Oregon each year for 10 years is the equivalent economic benefit of solving the nursing shortage.

Income and Taxable Revenue Impact of Addressing the Nursing Shortage in Oregon

PROJECTED ANNUAL OPENINGS 2006 -2016	AVERAGE RN ANNUAL INCOME 2008	STATE INCOME TAX RATE 2008	PROJECTED TOTAL INCOME FROM NEW RNs	PROJECTED ANNUAL INCOME TAX REVENUES	PROJECTED ANNUAL ECONOMIC BENEFIT TO STATE ECONOMY
1,352	\$68,990	9%	\$93,274,480	\$8,118,760	\$233,186,200



Because Oregon's Health Depends On It.

Why Should We Invest in the Oregon Center for Nursing? Because Oregon's Health Depends on It.

OCN advances innovative and collaborative solutions to Oregon's nursing shortage

The OCN developed StudentMAX®, a centralized clinical placement software system, solving the problem of finding clinical placement sites for nursing students. No other nursing workforce center has had the impact on clinical placements that the OCN has had with StudentMAX. Eleven states in the US have licensed this premier program which has increased efficiency by 25% or more.

The OCN and Johnson & Johnson sponsored the Promise of Nursing for Oregon event to showcase the contribution of everyday working nurses in Oregon and to raise \$300,000 in scholarships and grants.

OCN works to increase the diversity of the nursing workforce

OCN's Nursing Workforce Diversity Initiative (NWDI) is diversifying Oregon's nursing workforce and increasing cultural competency in the delivery of health care through:

The Nursing Student Admissions Database, collecting reliable data on the number and demographic characteristics of individuals applying to Oregon's nursing programs and schools. This information can be used to tailor recruitment programs and boost retention of diverse candidates.

Nurturing Cultural Competence in Nursing, developing demonstration projects to build cultural competency in healthcare. Supported in part by a grant from the Oregon Community Foundation, nurses are leading these projects in hospitals, schools and community settings all across the state.

OCN provides nurse workforce information to policymakers and the public

OCN regularly collects and analyzes information concerning healthcare vacancies, turnover of nursing staff, and recruitment of nurses in Oregon and reports to stakeholders. Publications have included snapshots of supply and demand of nursing personnel, the impact of nursing workforce initiatives, and reports that predicted the current crisis.

OCN is the "go-to" source for up-to-date information about the nursing shortage. Used by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, The Oregonian, The Register-Guard, and The Portland Business Journal as the most reliable source on nursing data in Oregon.

OCN builds the leadership capacity of Oregon's nurses

OCN's Nursing Leadership Development Initiative has increased the ability of Oregon's nurses to be community health leaders through a series of statewide conferences and workshops and ongoing training, focusing on professional nurse development and communication skills. When the need presented itself, the OCN led regional nursing experts and industry leaders to launch the *Nursing Leadership and Management in Long-Term Care* certification course.