



Lessons Learned from Successful Public Health Nursing Academic-Practice Pilot Projects



The Illinois Public Health Nursing Academic-Practice Partnership launched in the Spring of 2016 to support pilot projects and hold a state-wide conference. Due to the State of Illinois budget impasse, however, recruitment via health departments and schools of nursing was hindered. Thankfully, external funding was secured from the Illinois Nurses Foundation/INF to support the pilot projects and the conference.

The pilot project application, submission, and reporting process was developed using a modified American Association of Colleges of Nursing Academic-Practice Partnership Toolkit. Five partnership pilot projects were awarded across Illinois during the Fall 2016 and Spring 2017 semesters.

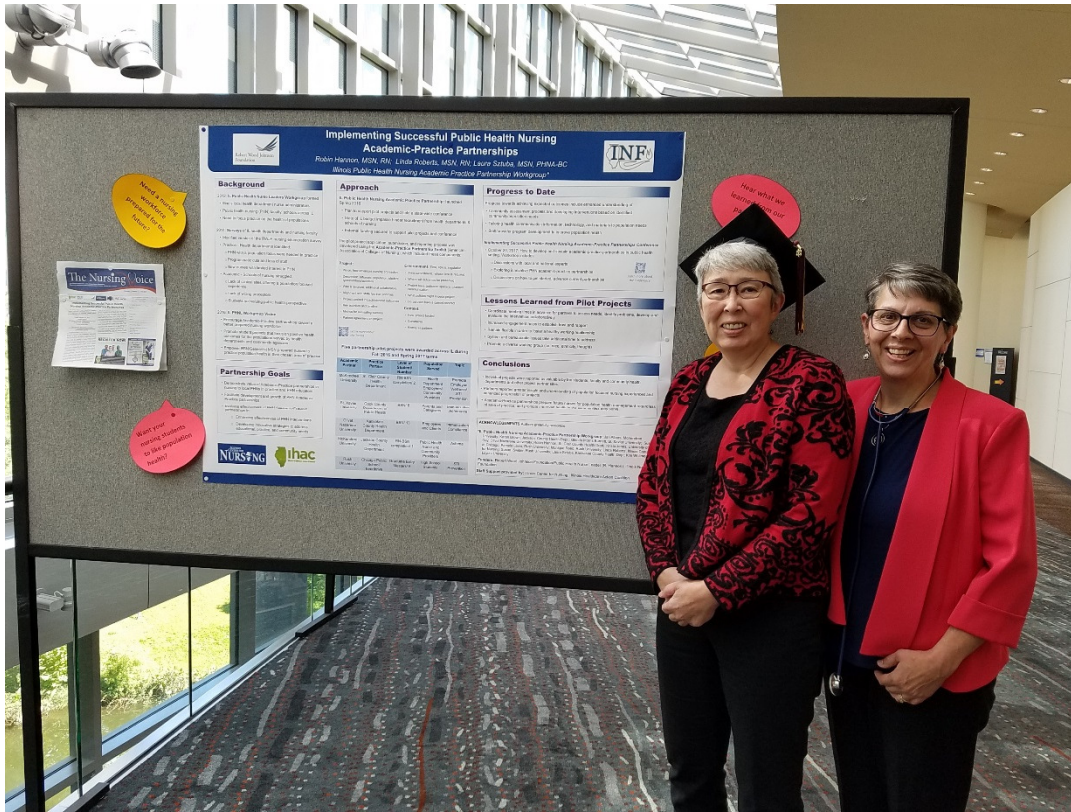
Projects were funded at the following sites:

- McKendree University/St. Clair county Health Department: STI Prevention and Promoting Employee Wellness
- St. Xavier University/Cook County Department of Public Health: Immunization Adherence
- Olivet Nazarene University/Kankakee County Health Department: Immunization Compliance
- McKendree University/Jackson County Health Department: Asthma
- Rush University/EverThrive, Illinois/Chicago Public School: STI Prevention

Lessons learned from the pilot projects include: the importance of coordinating meeting times in advance for partners to assess needs, identify problems, develop and evaluate intervention collaboratively; how increased engagement helps to establish trust and rapport; remaining flexible to foster a healthy working relationship; understanding how system and bureaucratic issues take additional time to address; and how to promote a diverse working group (i.e. race, ethnicity, thought).

In September 2017, the Public Health Nursing Leaders Workgroup presented a research poster of these projects at the Illinois Public Health Association's (IPHA) annual meeting and at the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta, Georgia. Laura Sztuba, MSN, PHNA-BC of the Kankakee County Health Department presented at IPHA's annual meeting. Linda B. Roberts, MSN, RN, IDFPR/Illinois Center for Nursing and Robin Hannon MSN, RN, of the St. Clair County Health Department presented at the CDC.

The Illinois Public Health Nursing Academic-Practice Partnership Workgroup members: Jan Albers, McKendree University; Karen Brown, Jackson County Health Department; Glenda Morris Burnett, St. Xavier University; Susan Day, Olivet Nazarene University; Robin Hannon, St. Clair County Health Department; Krista Jones, University of Illinois at Chicago; Pamela Levin, Rush University; Monique Reed, Rush University; Linda B. Roberts, Illinois Center for Nursing; Susan Swider, Rush University; Laura Sztuba, Kankakee County Health Department; Kim Whitmore, Loyola University.



Robin Hannon, MSN, RN, St. Clair County Health Department and Linda B. Roberts, MSN, RN, IDFPR/Illinois Center for Nursing during poster session, Centers for Disease Control, Atlanta, Georgia.