

Testimony Outline for House Committee on Healthcare
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AHEC Nursing Workforce Initiatives
Gerontological Nurse Practitioner UVMHC Memory Program

1. How people get into nursing in VT:

LPN, AD, (VTTECH), BS (Castleton, Norwich, UVM), Direct Entry to DNP (UVM)

2. Levels of nursing:

LPN – limited in scope of practice but highly needed by nursing homes.

AD - suitable for hospital practice (lacking public/population health and evidence based practice courses).

BS – “Nurse of the Future” endorsed for practice in a wide variety of setting

MS – Educators (Norwich) and Clinical Nurse Leaders (UVM), Nurse practitioner (NU)

DNP - Nurse Practitioner program (UVM) can be a direct entry with a degree in something else or after a BS in Nursing.

PhD – Nurse Scientists

3. How to attract more in nursing careers?

Limits on #s of students due to faculty/ placements/ preceptors

In 1999, there were 129 graduates to a high of 326 in 2015.

In 2001, 4,346 RNs working in VT to 2019 ~ 9,500 (some telehealth)

Therefore, what else must be done to grow nursing workforce:

1. Entice high school and some second career nursing students into LPN to AD to BS programs with low tuition and scholarships to VTTECH. Ongoing support for program and faculty.
2. Continue to encourage second career students with college degrees into Doctoral Entry program at UVM to be prepared to become nurse practitioners.
3. Keep RN graduates in Vermont from UVM, Castleton and Norwich with loan repayment for service (increase AHEC funding for this purpose).
4. Tax incentives for precepting NP students (legislation in MD, GA, CO, HI).
5. Vermont has had a Blue Ribbon Commission on Nursing in 2002, 2012 and should be formed for 2022.

Student testimony.

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