

ACTION
SEPTEMBER 7, 2022

HIGHER EDUCATIONAL AIDS BOARD

BOARD REPORT #23-07

2023-25 BIENNIAL BUDGET NURSE EDUCATORS REQUEST

PRIVATE/NON-PROFIT SECTOR

ALVERNO COLLEGE
BELLIN COLLEGE
BELOIT COLLEGE
CARDINAL STRITCH UNIVERSITY
CARROLL UNIVERSITY
CARTHAGE COLLEGE
CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY
EDGEWOOD COLLEGE
HERZING UNIVERSITY
LAKELAND UNIVERSITY
LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY
MARIAN UNIVERSITY



WISCONSIN'S PRIVATE, NONPROFIT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
WORKING TOGETHER FOR EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY
MEDICAL COLLEGE OF WISCONSIN
MILWAUKEE INSTITUTE OF ART & DESIGN
MILWAUKEE SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING
MOUNT MARY UNIVERSITY
NASHOTAH HOUSE
NORTHLAND COLLEGE
RIPON COLLEGE
ST. NORBERT COLLEGE
VITERBO UNIVERSITY
WISCONSIN LUTHERAN COLLEGE

September 6, 2022

Steve Willett, Chair
Connie Hutchison, Executive Secretary
Higher Education Aids Board (HEAB)
4822 Madison Yards Way
Seventh floor
Madison, WI 53705

Dear HEAB Chair Willett and Executive Secretary Hutchison,

On behalf of the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (WAICU), I am writing with respect to the Nurse Educators Grants Program for the 2023-25 biennial budget appropriation of the Higher Educational Aids Board (HEAB). As you know, the Nurse Educators Program was created under 2021 Wis. Act 58, and \$5,000,000 General Purpose Revenue (GPR) in 2022-23 was later provided by the Joint Committee on Finance via a supplemental appropriation for release to HEAB and that costs associated with the program be funded from the same appropriation. **Under 2021 Wis. Act 58, the Nurse Educators Program is a continuing appropriation and for detailed reasons outlined below, WAICU is respectfully requesting HEAB approve a \$5,000,000 General Purpose Revenue continuing appropriation beginning in 2023-24 and \$5,000,000 in 2024-25, for a total increase of \$10,000,000 in GPR over the biennium.** Pre-pandemic, a Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development supply and demand forecast projected a 25% nursing workforce supply gap by 2040 (Walsh & Casal, 2020).

Each year, Wisconsin's private, nonprofit institutions produce more than 12,700 graduates, most of whom remain in Wisconsin. WAICU members grant 23% of Wisconsin's bachelor's degrees and 35% of the advanced degrees. *While Wisconsin Grants for private, nonprofits are WAICU's primary focus, our institutions provide the majority of nursing graduates. Among the bachelor's degrees, the private, nonprofit colleges and universities produce 53% of the nursing graduates. At the graduate level, WAICU members produce 74% of the nursing degrees.*

Due to the concern expressed about a growing shortage of qualified nurses in Wisconsin the state created the Nurse Educators Program at HEAB. According to the Wisconsin 2020 registered nurse (RN) workforce survey, 31.9% of current nurses are age 55 and older, and the median age reported in the 2019 Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN) workforce survey was 47.7 years. In addition to retiring from the workforce, the aging baby boomer population requires more healthcare services. By 2040,

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demand for RNs in Wisconsin is estimated to exceed supply by 27%, meaning a shortage of 19,800 nurses. Therefore, more new nurses are needed to replace those who are retiring and to keep up with the demand. Nationwide enrollment in baccalaureate nursing programs has continued to grow by 3.3% in 2021 according to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing. One of the challenges with maintaining and expanding nursing student enrollment is a nursing faculty shortage. In 2018, there were 1,256 nurse educators in Wisconsin and of that 58% will be retired by 2030.

Under 2021 Wis. Act 58, it was specified that the Nurse Educators Program would apply to students and graduates of institutions of higher education, defined as private, nonprofit colleges and universities located in Wisconsin, colleges within the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS), and the University of Wisconsin (UW) System institutions or campuses. As you know, the Nurse Educators Program is required to provide: (a) fellowships to students who enroll in programs for degrees in doctor of nursing practice, doctor of philosophy in nursing, or master of science in nursing in an institution of higher education; (b) educational loan repayment assistance to recruit and retain faculty for nursing programs in an institution of higher education; and (c) postdoctoral fellowships to recruit faculty for nursing programs in an institution of higher education. Individuals who receive fellowships or loan repayment assistance are required to teach for three consecutive years in a nursing program at an institution of higher education.

Time and planning are needed to address this issue as a doctoral program typically takes four to seven years to complete, and nurses often practice for a period of time before pursuing graduate education. As HEAB is aware, Wisconsin has three institutions that provide a doctorate of nursing program—Marquette University, UW-Madison, and UW-Milwaukee; nine institutions that provide a doctor of nursing practice or doctor of philosophy in nursing program—Alverno College, Concordia University-Wisconsin, Edgewood College, Marquette University, UW-Eau Claire, UW-Madison, UW-Milwaukee, UW-Oshkosh, and Viterbo University; and eight institutions that provide a master's degree in nursing/nurse educator program—Bellin College, Cardinal Stritch University, Carroll University, Concordia University-Wisconsin, Edgewood College, UW-Eau Claire, UW-Milwaukee, and UW-Oshkosh.

Again, WAICU respectfully requests HEAB's approval **of a \$5,000,000 General Purpose Revenue continuing appropriation beginning in 2023-24 and \$5,000,000 in 2024-25, for a total increase of \$10,000,000 in GPR over the biennium.** Thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely,



Liza Simon

Interim President, WAICU

(Revised 9-6-2022)