

# 19<sup>th</sup> Global Nursing Education Conference

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## Academic progression for nursing in New Mexico

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**Statement of the Problem:** In answer to the Institute of Medicine's (IOM) call for 80% BSN prepared nurses by the year 2020, New Mexico's Action Coalition and all seventeen state funded prelicensure nursing programs joined forces to create the New Mexico Nursing Education Consortium (NMNEC). NMNEC is a unique model of collaboration including a common curriculum, seamless transferability for students between schools, and most importantly, the baccalaureate degree awarded on community college campuses.

**Methodology:** Community college students co-enroll at their local community college and university partner school. These students never need to leave their community college but take nursing courses from both institutions resulting in the award of the associate degree from the community college once they have met all the requirements for the baccalaureate degree from the university (five semesters total).

**Results:** The impact of this collaboration has been significant. Over the past four years, university partnerships with four community colleges have increased prelicensure BSN seats in New Mexico by 42%. The number of BSN licensures has risen from 39% in 2014 when the first community college and university collaboration began to 51% in 2016 as a result of two community college collaborations. Four more community colleges are preparing to join the partnerships. This presentation describes the NMNEC model, issues and challenges faced by NMNEC, growth and current outcomes of NMNEC, and factors that have contributed to the success of NMNEC. NMNEC's commitment to the IOM challenge continues with future steps for sustainability and further growth discussed.

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