



# MARYLAND ACTION COALITION

*Creating a Healthier Maryland*

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## FUTURE OF NURSING™ CAMPAIGN FOR ACTION

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### **Hood College Nursing's Strategies for Increasing Capacity for Greater Pre-Licensure Enrollment: Part II, the COVID-19 Experience**

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#### **Abstract**

The Hood College Pre-Licensure Program first admitted students in 2014. Today, Hood has approximately 100 students in all levels of the program and has graduated 47 students since 2018 (with 16 set to graduate in May 2021). As the only pre-licensure baccalaureate program located in the western counties of Maryland, we seek to attract qualified students that we prepare to enter the Maryland nursing workforce. We also seek qualified clinical instructors and faculty to support this influx of students. This presentation will highlight the various strategies used to attract students and develop instructors and faculty that are supported by Nurse Support Program (NSP) II funding, along with the recent challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### *Build Strong Collaboration with Admissions to Attract Students Interested in Nursing*

Over the past two years, nursing faculty have participated in Discover Hood Days, where high school students come to campus to learn more about all majors, and Nursing Open Houses in our simulation lab, to provide potential students with a simulation experience. Since spring 2020, all admission events have moved virtual. We continue to recruit and grow the number of admissions to our program through virtual tours and mini-courses provided by our admissions team and nursing faculty.

#### *Engage with Clinical Partners in the Community to Support Student Learning*

Hood Nursing has a Memo of Understanding with Frederick Health Hospital (FHH) that allows labor and delivery and pediatric Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS) to teach our pediatric and maternity courses. Experiences in these clinical areas in spring 2020 were all virtual, but with CNS expertise, we were able to provide virtual learning opportunities, such as simulation. Currently, students are back at FHH for a live clinical experience.

#### *Create New Initiatives for Learning and Service*

Growing our capacity has provided opportunities for students to serve the department, college, and community, including Hood Million Hearts®, Nursing Club, and study abroad. Hood Million Hearts, a campus and community-wide cardiovascular disease prevention program, has continued with students meeting participants virtually to teach them to use a home blood

pressure monitor and make lifestyle changes. Although study abroad has been postponed for 2020 and 2021, students have been able to participate in group discussions and hear presentations from faculty and students at the University of Global Health Equity. Students have continued service by assisting with on-campus contact tracing, and there are plans for students to help with the county's community health assessment surveys in summer 2021.