



**Advancing Academic Progression: CCBC's Associate to Bachelor's (ATB) Dual Enrollment Nursing Degree Option**  
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Since the release of the 2010 IOM report, *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health*, nurse educators have been examining ways to produce a more highly educated nursing workforce to meet increasingly complex 21st century health care needs. Compelling research reveals that when more BSN nurses are employed in health care institutions, better patient outcomes result. Such evidence is serving as the impetus for creative new partnerships in nursing education. At long last, nurse educators are recognizing that by embracing and celebrating the richness of both associate and baccalaureate education programs, they can forge effective partnerships to help achieve the IOM's recommendation that 80% of nurses will have the BSN by 2020.

This presentation will describe NSPII grant funded initiatives that have led to the creation of a dual enrollment Associate to Bachelor's (ATB) Nursing Degree model, first with Towson University, then with three additional partner universities - Frostburg State, Notre Dame of Maryland and Stevenson. The process of forming the partnerships, creating dual enrollment curriculum plans, and recruiting and retaining students will be shared. Successes and challenges experienced by ATB students, ATB Coordinators, and participating institutions will be discussed. The goals of a new NSPII grant recently awarded to CCBC, Expanded Pathways to the BSN - ATB 1-2-3, will be shared.