

VERSION 1.1
12/26/2018



PRESENTED BY: SOWIB

SOUTHWESTERN OREGON WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD
990 S 2ND ST COOS BAY OR 97420

SOHIP NURSE FACULTY FELLOWSHIP

BACKGROUND

INTRODUCTION

The Southwestern Oregon Healthcare Industry Partnership (SOHIP), formed in 2016, has embarked on a project to address the current nurse shortage in Coos, Curry and Douglas counties. A cornerstone of the projection has been the creation of merit-based fellowships for nurse faculty.

The fellowships will be distributed through an application and review committee process beginning in November 2018 and renewing annually through 2021.

PROBLEM AND SOLUTION

Southwestern Oregon is on the precipice of a crisis-level nursing shortage, brought upon by unprecedented growth in access to healthcare services, a rapidly aging workforce, and a lack of capacity to educate enough new professionals to fill openings.

According to the Oregon Employment Department (OED), the need for nurses is expected to grow rapidly over the next 10 years. In 2017, approximately 33,000 people worked as a nurse in the state in Oregon. By 2027, the OED estimates Oregon will need more than 43,000 nurses. Statewide, Oregon will need approximately 2,600 nurses every year to meet the projected need.

These trends are mirrored in Southwestern Oregon, where almost 1,500 people work as nurses. By 2027, the OED estimates that number will grow by 11% to about 1,660.

Although the causes for the shortage are varied, one significant factor in our area is the aging of the workforce. Overall, in Southwestern Oregon the percentage of nurses who are 55 and older, and thus on the cusp of retirement, is higher than the state average.

In order to grow the pool of nurses, current programs being offered at Southwestern Oregon Community College (SOCC) and Umpqua Community College (UCC) must be expanded. However, both colleges lack sufficient faculty to be able to do so. The primary impediment to adding faculty is the significant pay gap that exists between the education world and private sector. By providing merit-based fellowships to close that gap and encourage qualified nurses to teach, we can help increase the number of nurses trained in our area.

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

AWARD

The focus of the awards is to increase enrollment.

Awards through the fellowship will be made through an application review process. The review committee will be comprised of SOHIP partners from private industry. Recipients may receive up to \$25,000 per year.

Scoring for the awards will be based on a scoring criteria that takes into account three primary factors: Classroom Performance, Community Service, and Professional Development.

Payments for the fellowship will be made through Southwestern Oregon Workforce Investment Board (SOWIB) and are in no way tied to any compensation received from the college.