



CREATE A CULTURE OF LIFELONG LEARNING

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The Institute of Medicine's (IOM) *Future of Nursing* report released in 2010 summoned initiatives to support the educational advancement of nurses. Two key recommendations from the IOM report were to "increase the proportion of nurses with a baccalaureate degree to 80% by 2020" and "ensure that nurses engage in lifelong learning" (National Academies, 2016, p. 57). As part of a five-year grant initiative through the Maryland Higher Education Commission's Nurse Support Program II, two Associate of Science in Nursing programs in Maryland have partnered to support the IOM goals related to academic progression in nursing. At the heart of this shared initiative is the aim to create a culture of lifelong learning. A full-time grant-funded academic progression coordinator is largely responsible for cultivating this culture through increased opportunities for seamless academic progression as well as increased participation in professional development activities. As the grant's final year approaches, the project is expected to exceed its goals as outlined in the grant proposal. Data collected from this project emphasizes successful methods which can be adopted by other institutions seeking to achieve similar goals.