



Where Are We Five Years Later? A Program Evaluation of the Degree Completion Initiative

Elizabeth Crusse, MS, MA, RN, CNE

NSP II Grant # 16-118

Abstract

The Degree Completion Initiative (NSP II 16-118) was awarded in 2015 as a way to increase the number of baccalaureate-prepared nurses within the state of Maryland. The Degree Completion Initiative (DCI) is composed of two pathways: the traditional RN-to-BSN option and the innovative associate-to-bachelor, or dual-enrollment, option. The DCI began in Maryland in fall 2012 between Towson University and the Community College of Baltimore County with 17 students. As of spring 2020, 452 students are now part of the DCI and encompass two Towson University campuses and five community colleges. An external evaluation will be conducted in spring 2020 and examine our entire process from admission to graduation, including a curricular review. This presentation will address the findings of the evaluation. Towson University is proud to be a leader in educating baccalaureate-prepared nurses. We thank the Maryland Higher Education Commission through the NSP II grant award for helping us contribute to the Institute of Medicine recommendation of increasing the proportion of nurses with a baccalaureate degree to 80% by 2020.