



# MARYLAND ACTION COALITION

*Creating a Healthier Maryland*

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## FUTURE OF NURSING™ CAMPAIGN FOR ACTION

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### **Preceptor Engagement Through Education**

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#### **Abstract**

The demand for access to primary care providers has increased and can be appropriately answered with more available nurse practitioners (NPs). Clinical-based learning is an essential component of the NP educational experience. Barriers to adequate training of NPs include faculty shortage and the lack of available number and quality of preceptors. With the increased need for well-trained NPs, solutions to the problem of the lack of preceptors and sites must be addressed. An especially pressing concern is the need for NPs as primary care providers for vulnerable populations. The Johns Hopkins faculty joined together to address the need for preceptor engagement through education. Modules were created using a combination of monograph, storyline lecture, and then audiovisual learning. Topics of motivational interviewing, social determinants of health, trauma-informed care, and culturally competent care were covered to address improving education about care for vulnerable populations. An additional module on clinical excellence was done with input from preceptors. Each module provided continuing education for preceptors. All were placed in a newly designed portal on the school's website. This gave easy access to continuing education, information about precepting, a preceptor guidebook, and access to the faculty. The impact of this project has been increased partnerships between students, faculty, and practicing clinicians along with the ability to expand the NP workforce by providing adequate preceptors to a variety of students and increase availability of preceptor training with a focus on topics about care of vulnerable populations. The next steps include maintaining preceptor engagement, continuing to solicit feedback from preceptors for their needs, and continuing to establish and support collaborative relationships with preceptors, as clinical education is the key to excellence in NP practice. The connections to the university provide a path for personal and professional satisfaction in the preceptor role. Education is one step on this path.