

Hybrid Pilot Class for Underserved Rural Communities

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Rural and other underserved communities and students comprise a large portion of California and the nation as a whole. The proposed process enclosed is an innovative attempt to help alleviate the many constraints that communities and students face in our current environment. With this in mind, Cerro Coso Community College has partnered with Futuro Health, a Nonprofit Organization, towards helping underserved student populations and underserved communities in developing local healthcare professionals to benefit patients, communities, and the state of California as a whole.

A little about who Cerro Coso Community College (CCCC) is and why we are a perfect fit for trailblazing this opportunity. Cerro Coso Community College is primarily located in Ridgecrest, California an underserved and rural community itself. CCCC has the largest service area of all California Community Colleges with a service area of 18,000 square miles, four county regions, and with a population of roughly 145,000. CCCC has multiple rural sites of which there are six, “brick and mortar” campuses and a robust online presence. The college has been producing LVN’s for our rural communities since September 23, 1974. The current Licensed Vocational Nursing (LVN) program pass rates are 94.44%.

A little about who Futuro Health (FH) is and why they are a perfect partner with CCCC in ensuring success of this endeavor. Futuro Health’s nonprofit mission is to increase the health and wealth of communities by growing the largest network of allied health workers in the nation, providing relevant solutions by making education journeys into allied health careers possible and growing the talent that employers need and creating a path to opportunity that workers want. Approximately 60% of the industry is comprised of allied health roles, from medical assistants to vocational nurses, care coordinators, and helpdesk support specialists. FH invests in education, skills training and retraining – resulting in better paying jobs for workers, better care for patients, and better workers for employer to hire. Since FH’s launch in 2020, over 8,000 diverse adults have enrolled in an education path leading to a healthcare credential of value to employers. FH did this work during a time when post-secondary enrollment dramatically dropped across the country.

A little about the standing relationship/collaborative partnership between CCCC and FH. In spring of 2022, CCCC and FH developed a working relationship in establishing a pipeline of

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underserved students through CCCC Administrative Medical Assisting (AMA) and Clinical Medical Assisting (CMA) programs. Since inception, we have learned and refined our process and are moving forward with next two cohorts for 2023.

The Proposal

The intention of this report is to present for discussion a Hybrid Pilot Class to an underserved community and students through CCCC with the assistance of FH. FH is positioned perfectly to advertising and establishing a relationship with communities of need for LVN professionals.

CCCC has the established program and experience in providing quality instruction.

Upon establishing a potential site, the following process will be enacted to ensure successful implementation of the class, success of the students, and maintaining of BVNPT regulations:

- Proposed site is not within 60 miles of an established LVN program
- Proposed site has met minimum requirements for:
 - Clinical rotations appropriate to BVNPT requirements
 - Skills lab appropriate to BVNPT requirements
 - Classroom appropriate to BVNPT requirements
 - Local classroom and clinical instructors meeting BVNPT requirements
 - Students meeting CCCC entry level requirements approved by BVNPT
 - Internet access necessary for hybrid instruction
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been established to include:
 - Clinical rotation sites
 - Skills lab and supplies
 - Classroom
 - Instructors (classroom, skills lab, and clinical rotations)
 - Understanding use of facilities throughout the class progression

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Once the MOU and site have met requirements, the Director of Nursing (DON) will submit verification of faculty qualification forms and clinical facility verification forms to the Nurse Education Consultant (NEC) at the BVNPT. At that time, potential students will be entered into the CCCC system and begin their prerequisite coursework approved by the BVNPT for the CCCC LVN program. Upon completion, potential students will apply in accordance with approved process for consideration in the Hybrid Pilot Class.

Prior to implementation of the Vocational Nursing classes, all new instructors will attend online and in-person trainings in preparation for instruction. CCCC staff will be on-site during set-up and on implementation of the Hybrid Class as needed. All classroom, skills labs, and clinical rotation schedules will be submitted during this time to the NEC for review specific to the Hybrid Pilot Class situation in line with current CCCC approved curriculum.

During implementation of the Hybrid Pilot Class, the CCCC DON will visit the classroom, skills lab, and clinical sites in accordance with BVNPT regulations and the completion of evaluations and oversight regardless of distance from primary campus. CCCC uses Canvas as our Learning Management System (LMS) and all (theory and clinical) courses are currently well established in Canvas and in keeping with approved instruction. Theory instruction for the Hybrid Pilot Class will be completed in one of two ways: Either in an online-synchronous environment with instructors from main campus or with approved classroom instructors at facility and or a combination of the two. All skills lab instruction will be conducted in keeping with approved requirements from the BVNPT as well as clinical rotations.

At completion of the first Hybrid Pilot Class, CCCC and FH will collaborate on reporting out effectiveness of the on-boarding, implementation, and overall performance of the class. Students completing will be tracked on NCLEX-PN pass rates to be included in the report and continued improvement of the program as a whole. Presentation of results will be presented to the BVNPT Board as appropriate.