

**Complete This Template to Develop Your
Academic-Practice Partnership Summary Document**

PLAYERS

Selecting Partners

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Preparing for Your First Meeting

Date/Time of Meeting	05/30/2007 8:00 a.m.
Place of Meeting:	West Roxbury VA Medical Center

What do you and your partner need to know about you and your organization?

In 2007, the Northeast Region VA Nursing Alliance (NERVANA) was founded. This unique academic-practice partnership between the VA Boston/Bedford Health Care Systems and six schools of nursing in the greater Boston area united with the mission "to employ an innovative educational model to expand and enrich nursing students and faculty, to educate nursing students in the care of veterans, and to expose nursing students to the advanced model of medical informatics, patient safety, quality improvement and integrated systems of care employed by the VA's National Healthcare system."

Academic partners include Boston College, Northeastern University, Regis College, Simmons College, University of MA Boston and University of MA Lowell.

Each NERVANA participant is familiar with each other's organizations and goals for nursing and inter-professional education.

PARTNERSHIPS

Initial Meeting

What is the right partnership activity for you and your partner?

All members of NERVANA benefit from the creation and ongoing development of the mission statement related to the academic-practice partnership. This partnership provides a merger of theory and practice to enhance nursing and interprofessional education and quality patient care. Innovations/research are shared at quarterly meetings.

What documents about your organization should you bring to the meeting?

During the partnership, representatives from each of the NERVANA schools and VA representatives have shared documents related to Nurse of the Future Competencies, curriculum design, reflective practice, preceptorships, clinical evaluations and nurse residency programs.

What do you have to offer?

The partnership benefits the academic members of NERVANA and the VA Boston/Bedford Health Care Systems by developing and maintaining a relationship across academic affiliates/professions which enhances the exchange of ideas to improve patient care and outcomes and nursing education. The partnership created and continues to expand novel clinical rotations on 6 Dedicated Education Units for BSN students(one is interprofessional), advanced practice rotations for MSN/ DNP students and EBP/Research opportunities for DNP & PhD students interested in care of veterans. NERVANA has and continues to educate students, faculty and the community regarding the uniqueness of the health needs of the veteran population (Care of the American Veteran Colloquium Series). This unique partnership also creates multi-school research and other scholarship/research opportunities for all partners in an effort to develop best practices for veterans in all healthcare settings. The VA has created and expanded clinical rotations, as well as DEUs with one new DEU under discussion with Boston College and one inter-professional DEU with Northeastern University.

What is your vision for this partnership and does your partner share this vision?

The partners share the vision for sustaining the mission and supportive activities of NERVANA. The VA Boston/Bedford Health Care Systems and the academic partners take great pride in sharing our mutual expertise to develop future nurses of America as well as sharing the important work the VA provides to the veteran population. The shared vision was created to and continues to strive to develop the best that academics and practice has to offer and to provide a natural platform for research and evidence based practice.

Who else needs to be involved in both organizations? Is top leadership involved?

The top leadership at the VA Boston/Bedford Health Care Systems and the Deans and faculty of the colleges and universities are involved in this partnership. Academic and Practice members attend a Biannual Steering Committee meet and we encourage clinical faculty and staff members to develop and participate in preceptor workshops, mentoring activities and annual development conferences.

What is the business case for the partnership?

Each institution will contribute financial support to cover costs incurred in meeting the goals of the Academic-Practice Partnership. This support may take the form of in-kind, salary, and/or cash contributions

Subsequent Meetings

Do you have clarity on goals and vision?

Yes. This academic-practice partnership is a collaborative endeavor that seeks to achieve eight goals. First, maintain and refine the infrastructure for sustaining the mission and supportive activities of NERVANA. Second, to increase the number of faculty to teach in nursing programs and NERVANA activities. Third, create and expand novel clinical rotations including intra-professional and interprofessional Dedicated Education Units for BSN programs, APN rotations of MSN and DNP students, and EBP/research for DNP and PhD students. Fourth, to continue creation of VA pedagogical project initiatives. Fifth, translate learning to develop best practices for veterans in all health care settings. Sixth, educate students, faculty and the community regarding the uniqueness of the health needs of the veteran population. Seventh, develop programs at partnering schools to address healthcare issues related to the Veteran. And finally, to create multi-school research, EBP, and other scholarship/research opportunities for and with NERVANA partners. (attach Metrics document)

What are the details and time line of the initiative?

The partnership is governed by the Advisory Board. The Advisory Board will ensure that the goals of NERVANA are being met and to revise the partnership goals as needed.

Whom can we call for expert consultation if needed?

The NERVANA Advisory Board which includes the leadership at the VA Boston/Bedford Health Care Systems and the six Deans from the affiliated Schools of Nursing would be available for consultation as needed. In addition, in order to enhance our inter-professional collaboration the Chief of Staff and the Associate Chief of Staff for Education are active participants in meetings.

What are the expected outcomes of the activity?

This academic-practice partnership provides the VA Health Care Systems and the six nursing programs the opportunity to work together in delivering care and learning from each other. The interprofessional relationship enhances the exchange of ideas, sharing of expertise, development of the Post-Baccalaureate Nurse Residency Program, and the Dedicated Education Units (DEU). The shared vision creates the best that academics and practice has to offer and provides a natural platform for research and evidence-based practice. The concepts and implementation of DEU and inter-professional education are examples of collaborative undergraduate BSN education that VA nurses have embraced with the support of the academic partners. Not only is VA nursing leadership and staff open to the DEU model as a new clinical education model but the benefit has extended to further the principles and realization of an inter-professional DEU at the VA with Northeastern University. The 6 NERVANA schools all participated in a CCNE Residency accreditation site visit at VA Boston and were instrumental in achieving CCNE accreditation in May 2014!

ENVIRONMENT

Time

Is this the right time for this partnership?

Yes. With the challenges in health care and the need to support nursing education, the NERVANA academic-practice partnership is able to enhance nursing education and provide high quality, evidence-based care to the veteran population. It is more important than ever to join forces and work together to strengthen both academia and practice as joint partners.

What are the issues that will facilitate or impede the development of the partnership?

None have been identified. The partnership has continued to grow since its inception in 2007.

What is the time commitment for the partners?

The time commitment varies. The program continues to expand and provides mentoring programs, leadership support, curriculum development, expanded dedicated educational nursing units, and enhanced Post Baccalaureate Nurse Residency (PBNR) Curriculum development.

Whose time will be required?

Advisory Board members, Steering Committee members, Dean's Committee, Academic Sub-Committee members, Research, evaluation, and Scholarship Sub-Committee members, Colloquium Series, Sub-Committee members, VA administrative support, and the NERVANA School Faculty.

When will the meetings be scheduled?

Due to the number of committees, the scheduling of meetings varies based on the objective of the committee and initiatives.

ENVIRONMENT

Space

What space is required for the activity?

The VA Boston/-Bedford Health Care System and the six colleges of Nursing provide the space that is required for meeting, learning activities, programs and the PB Nurse Residency and Mental Health NP Residency programs.

What equipment and supplies are needed?

There is mutual sharing of materials and human resources for comprehensive program attainment.

What money is needed?

Each institution will contribute financial support to cover costs incurred in meeting the goals of the academic-practice partnership.

Where are we meeting?

VA Boston/Bedford Health Care, Boston College, Northeastern University, Regis College, Simmons College, University of Massachusetts Boston and University of Massachusetts Lowell.

Where will we present outcomes?

At local, regional, national and international seminars, meetings and conferences, with publications and posters.

ENVIRONMENT

Regulation

What are the policies or regulatory issues that will impede or facilitate development of the partnership on both sides?

Not applicable

Context

How will the partnership be funded?

Each institution will contribute financial support to cover costs incurred in meeting the goals of the partnership

What are the constraints of both partners?

The unique academic-practice partnership includes a total of 7 partners. To date, no constraints have been identified. The program continues to grow and expand to offer an innovative education model to expand nurse education and ensure quality care for the veteran population.

What history do the partners have with each other and each others' institutions?

The academic-practice partners have a long history of collaboration including clinical rotations, conferences, dedicated teaching units and the nurse residency program.