



**State University System
2023-2024 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund
Proposal Form**

University:	Florida Gulf Coast University
Healthcare Partner:	Lee Health System
Date Proposal Approved by University Board of Trustees:	Pending approval August 18, 2023 UBOT meeting
Amount Requested:	\$500,000
University Contact (name, title, phone, & email):	Dr. Brenda Hage, Director School of Nursing, Southwest Florida Endowed Chair, (239) 590-7513, bhage@fgcu.edu
Please check the boxes below as appropriate:	<i>All boxes must be checked in order to be eligible to participate.</i>
Healthcare partner making contribution is located in and licensed to operate in Florida?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
Healthcare partner making contribution is a healthcare provider as defined in Section 768.38(2), Florida Statutes?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
Nursing programs met or exceeded a first-time NCLEX passage rate of 70% for the prior year based on the 2023 Accountability Plan?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
The funds will be used for an eligible purpose per section 1009.8962, Florida Statutes?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes

Background

The LINE Fund is intended to incentivize collaboration between nursing education programs and healthcare partners and to meet local, regional, and state workforce demand by recruiting faculty and clinical preceptors, increasing the capacity of high-quality nursing education programs, and increasing the number of nursing education program graduates who are prepared to enter the workforce. Subject to available funds, for every dollar contributed to an institution by a healthcare partner, the fund shall provide a dollar-for-dollar match to the participating institution for approved proposals.

Funds may be used for student scholarships, recruitment of additional faculty, equipment, and simulation centers to advance high-quality nursing education programs throughout the state. Funds may not be used for the construction of new buildings. To participate, an institution must submit a timely and complete proposal to the Board of Governors for consideration. For more details, see Board of Governors [Regulation 8.008 - Nursing Education](#).

Proposals must be submitted with a total of no more than three pages of narrative for the following sections. Proposals with more than three pages of narrative will be rejected.

FGCU- Expanding Nursing Excellence (ENE) Project Proposal

Florida Gulf Coast University’s purpose is to educate students, to conduct scholarship and research, and to render service to society. The vision statement of the University is to “achieve national prominence in offering exceptional value in high-quality educational programs that address regional and statewide needs.” The FGCU School of Nursing (SON)’s vision encompasses “a future where faculty and students serve as mentors and interprofessional role models to develop engaged nurse leaders who deliver transformative care to diverse populations, conduct research, and promote evidence-based practice through academic and community partnerships”. The FGCU SON has a tradition of academic excellence and its BSN graduates achieve consistently high first time NCLEX pass rates. We are proud to note that FGCU’s BSN program has the highest pass rates in the Florida State University System! According to FETPIP, BSN graduates from FGCU hold the highest Florida employment rate among all SUS institutions. About 91% of BSN grads in 2020 were employed, 86% full-time. The 4-year Graduation rate for Nursing is almost twice the overall FGCU rate every year. FGCU NCLEX pass rates were as follows: 2022 (98.48%); 2021 (100%); 2020 (100%); and 2019 (96.43%).

Lee Health is one of the largest public health systems in the U.S. and one of the largest not-for-profit public health systems and Safety Net Hospitals in Florida that receives no direct tax support. Lee Health is comprised of four acute care hospitals (Lee Memorial Hospital, HealthPark Medical Center, Cape Coral Hospital, Gulf Coast Medical Center (Level II Trauma Center); two specialty hospitals including the Golisano Children’s Hospital of Southwest Florida (Level II and Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Units and a Regional Perinatal Intensive Care Center), and The Rehabilitation Hospital, the Regional Cancer Center, along with several post-acute and outpatient facilities. All Lee Health adult acute care hospitals have been named among “America’s Best Hospitals™” for 2022. Lee Health’s leadership team has once again agreed to make a financial contribution to the institution’s nursing program in the amount of \$500,000.

I. Proposed Use of Funds The FGCU Expanding Nursing Excellence (ENE) Project is once again seeking \$500,000 in LINE funding with equivalent matching funds from Lee Health. These funds will be used to:

1.) Offer student scholarship grants of up to \$10,000 each which will help to defray the cost of tuition for qualified additional applicants who are accepted into FGCU’s BSN program with an emphasis on diverse populations that represent the communities of interest served		
AY 2023/2024	20 add'l new students (increase of an additional 17% in enrollment) + up to 30 current, upper level students who have not already received scholarship support from Lee Health	50 x \$10,000

	Total	\$500,000 (Lee Health funds)
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2.) Support simulation personnel and clinical adjunct faculty salaries needed to expand the number of simulation and clinical courses offered in the BSN program		
AY 2023/2024	75 adjunct credit hrs (\$2500/cr + 2.83% fringe)	\$192,807
	22 Lee Health Adjuncts - orientation & micro-badging course in teaching/learning (16 hrs total @ \$55.55/hr + 2.83% fringe)	\$20,107
	Simulation Tech (\$45,000 annual salary + 41.04% fringe)	\$63,468
	Total	\$276,382 (matching BOG LINE funds)

3.) Purchase simulation resources and provide faculty/staff training (clinical, lab, simulation, standardized patients, IPE education, Sim case development)		
AY 2023/2024	Simulation resources & training	\$223,618
	Total	\$223,618 (matching BOG LINE funds)

Total Requests for AY 2023/2024		
1.) Scholarships	Lee Health Partner funds	\$500,000
2.) Personnel	matching BOG LINE funds	\$276,382
3.) Simulation resources & training	matching BOG LINE funds	\$223,618
	TOTAL	\$1,000,000

II. Onboarding and Retention of Graduates Through Lee Health’s Nurse Residency Program, BSN graduates of the grant program will participate in an 18 month-long, orientation and enrichment activities designed to support entry into practice. Lee Health’s Nurse Residency Program is founded on the National Council of State Boards of Nursing’s Transition to Practice (TTP). Using the TTP- three course training modules, new graduates will receive training and education on communication & teamwork, patient & family-centered care, evidence-based practice, quality improvement, and informatics while their preceptors receive formal preparation in best practices for supporting new graduates.

III. Program Expansion Through a strategic partnership with Lee Health System, LINE grant funding will enable FGCU’s SON to expand the number of nursing graduates to better meet the community’s significant need for qualified registered nurses. The following proposal was developed outlining a collaborative initiative between FGCU’s SON and Lee Health focused on increasing the number of qualified BSN graduates at FGCU. In AY 2022/2023, the FGCU SON

BSN program increased its enrollment by an additional 33% resulting in an increase from 176 students to 234 students (two year enrollment cycle, by the end of AY 2024) through the addition of 29 students annually. An additional 17% increase is planned this year resulting in an increase from 234 students to 274 students(two year enrollment cycle, by the end of AY 2026) through an increase of an additional 20 additional students annually, bringing a combined total of 50% increase through the LINE grant funding mechanism.

Since it is anticipated that a number of the required adjunct faculty may come from Lee Health and these individuals may have limited formal teaching experience in higher education, stackable skills education related to teaching/learning and evaluation strategies leading to a micro-credential and digital badging developed by FGCU SON faculty with expertise in nursing education will assist clinical adjunct faculty in their abilities to support BSN student learning. These micro-credentialing courses will serve as a part of the required adjunct faculty orientation activities. Program graduates employed by Lee Health will participate in the Lee Health Nurse Residency Program which lasts 18 months.

LINE Grant Success Metrics		
Mesure(s)	Time/Data Collected	Responsible individual(s)
Number of additional BSN applicants, # of qualified applicants, # of students accepted	(years 1 and 2)	FGCU BSN Program Director
Number of students who received scholarships and average amount of award	(years 1 and 2)	Lee Health
BSN student retention rates	(years 1 and 2)	FGCU BSN Program Director
Percentage of additional student clinical simulation experiences	(years 1 and 2)	FGCU BSN Program Director
BSN student graduation and NCLEX pass rates	(year 2)	FGCU School of Nursing Director
Post-graduation Nurse Residency Program Retention Rates	(year 3)	Lee Health
Nurse Residency Program Exit Data	(year 3)	Lee Health
Increase in % of FGCU BSN graduates employed at Lee Health	(year 3)	Lee Health
Employee Retention Rates	(ongoing)	Lee Health