



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

University:	University of North Florida
Healthcare Partner:	Baptist Health
Date Proposal Approved by University Board of Trustees:	Approved 8/17/2023
Amount Requested:	\$50,000
University Contact (name, title, phone, & email):	Dr. Curt Lox, Dean Brooks College of Health (904) 620-2810 c.lox@unf.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.

Proposal Details

Provide a detailed narrative for each section below.

I. Use of Funds - If this proposal is fully-funded, LINE funding will be used to develop two Baptist Health Cohorts of UNF baccalaureate nursing students in the UNF accelerated prelicensure (APL) program over 16 months (Cohort #1 from January 2024 – May 2025 and Cohort #2 from May 2024 – August 2025). UNF will select up to 5 students for each of the two Cohorts for this unique opportunity. Each of the 5 students will receive scholarship funding for each semester of their entire 16-month program (\$10,000 in LINE funds). Since LINE funding cannot be given with conditions, Baptist Health pay each student in the Cohort who successfully completes the APL program and obtains the requisite license a \$10,000 signing bonus upon the graduate's execution of an agreement to work for Baptist Health for a minimum of two years. Finally, 2 jointly appointed clinical instructors will be funded to teach these students in their final clinical rotation at Baptist health.

This funding helps to increase student enrollment by recruiting students to the UNF School of Nursing prelicensure program. Potential qualified applicants will be notified of these funding opportunities which may persuade them to attend UNF for their nursing education. In the past, some applicants may decline a spot in the UNF program in order to attend nursing school in their home state or city where it is less expensive. These scholarship opportunities will not only help UNF recruit excellent candidates for the prelicensure nursing program, but also ensure their success to program completion. Some UNF nursing students must work during school to afford their tuition or living expenses. This burden could be eased with a scholarship, allowing them more time for studying and successful program completion.

II. Onboarding & Retention of Graduates – Baptist Health has a well-established and successful nurse residency program for onboarding new graduate registered nurses (RNs). An evidence-based curriculum with didactic instruction and simulation experiences is required for all new RNs during their early employment. Baptist Health has a state-of-the-art simulation center and a full team of educators to onboard and support these new graduate RNs through their first year as they transition from education to practice. As noted in the required work agreement to receive scholarship funding that students will sign directly with Baptist Health, the student’s obligation to repay the scholarship will be forgiven in its entirety provided the student maintains full-time uninterrupted employment and satisfactory performance appraisals for a period of 24 consecutive months.

III. Program Expansion – Therefore, \$50,000 requested from Baptist Health and a match by the State of Florida of \$50,000 (**for a total of \$100,000**) would fully support a growth in enrollment of prelicensure nursing students by five specifically related to the LINE funding in the spring 2024 and summer 2024 semesters. For this investment, we anticipate new graduate nurses who are highly educated and prepared to work in the hospital and clinics of Baptist Health. Overall, these new graduate RNs will seamlessly transition into the Baptist Health nurse residency program for newly hired nurses. This will directly and positively impact the local need for RNs but will also help regionally and nationally as Baptist Health serves patients requiring specialty healthcare from all over Florida, the southeastern United States, and beyond.