



State University System
2026-2027 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund
Round 1 Proposals

University	Healthcare Partner	Total Amount Requested	Monetary Amount Requested	Amount Funded
FAMU	Donors	\$1,000,063	\$900,128	\$900,128
FAU	Palm Beach Health Network	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
FGCU	Lee Health System	\$325,000	\$325,000	\$325,000
FIU	Baptist Health	\$960,000	\$960,000	\$951,465
FIU	Memorial Healthcare	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
FIU	Memorial Healthcare	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
FIU	Riviera Health	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
FSU	Mayo Clinic	\$2,277,000	\$947,000	\$947,000
UCF	Advent Health	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
UCF	Nemours Children's	\$37,500	\$37,500	\$37,500
UCF	Orlando Health	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
UF	UF Health	\$2,800,000	\$2,800,000	\$1,101,464
UNF	HCA Healthcare	\$195,000	\$195,000	\$195,000
UNF	Baptist Health	\$52,500	\$52,500	\$52,500
USF	Empath Health	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
USF	John Hopkins	\$32,856	\$17,143	\$17,143
USF	Moffitt Cancer Center	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
USF	Orlando Health	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
USF	Sunshine Health	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
USF	Tampa General	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
UWF	Baptist Health	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
UWF	Ascension Sacred Heart	\$155,240	\$40,000	\$40,000
UWF	Santa Rosa	\$104,175	\$37,800	\$37,800
	Total for Round 1:	\$9,334,334	\$7,707,071	\$6,000,000



**State University System
2026-2027 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund
Proposal Form**

University:	Florida A&M University
Contributor:	
Amount Requested:	\$1,000,063
University Contact (name, title, phone, & email):	Shannon B Smith, Dean & Professor, 850-599-3017; shannon.smith@famu.edu
Please check the boxes below as appropriate:	
Is contributor a healthcare provider as defined in Section 768.38(2), Florida Statutes?	☒ Yes
Nursing programs met or exceeded a first-time NCLEX passage rate of 75% for the prior year based on the 2025 Accountability Plan?	☒ Yes
The funds will be used for an eligible purpose per section 1009.8962, Florida Statutes?	☒ Yes
Does the proposal reach beyond the current academic year?	☐ Yes
Does the proposal include non-monetary contributions, and any necessary supporting documentation to show value of a non-monetary contribution?	☒ 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, 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.

Name	Profession	Type	Gift Amount	Purpose.
BioMed Research	Pharmaceutical	Cash	\$400,000.00	Scholarships and Operation
Optum Rx	Pharmaceutical	Cash	\$200,000.00	Scholarships
Dr. T. C. Rumph	Dentist	Cash	\$150,000.00	Scholarships and Operation
SON 90th Anniverssary Alumni Campaign			\$100,000.00	Scholarships
Sunshine Health Works		Cash	\$25,000.00	NCLEX Preparation Student Resources
DAFgiving360 (Swab Charitable)	Sociologist	Cash	\$10,000.00	School of Nursing Scholarships
Frantrice L. McMillan-Riley	Registered Nurse	Cash	\$10,000.00	School of Nursing Anniversary Fund
Lenora Campbell	Registered Nurse	Cash	\$5,128.21	School of Nursing - General
Celeste Hart, MD	Physician	In-kind	\$99,935.00	Medical equipment and Supplies for FAMU Nursing clinic.

Total

~~\$400,063.21~~

\$1,000,063.21

SBS

Proposal Details

I. Use of Funds –

Student Scholarships	\$425,000
Faculty Recruitment	\$50,000
Faculty Salaries	\$250,000
Staff Salaries	\$100,000
Simulation Equipment/Resources	\$100,000
Clinical Preceptors	\$50,000
Licensure Exam Preparation	\$25,063
Other (describe)	
Carry Forward, if any	
Total	\$1,000,063

Anticipated number of additional bachelor's-level nursing education students enrolled as a result of the funds	15
Anticipated Number of additional master's-level nursing education students enrolled as a result of the funds	0
Anticipated number of additional doctorate-level nursing education students enrolled as a result of the funds	0
Total	15

Anticipated number of bachelor's-level nursing education students who receive scholarships as a result of the funds	15
Anticipated number of master's-level nursing education students who receive scholarships as a result of the funds	0
Anticipated number of doctorate-level nursing education students who receive scholarships as a result of the funds	0
Total	15

Florida A&M University School of Nursing will utilize healthcare partners contributions and corresponding LINE matching funds to support student scholarships and NCLEX preparation, faculty salaries, and clinical preceptors serving in the FAMU Primary Care Clinic. Scholarship funding will reduce financial barriers for Florida-resident prelicensure nursing students, improving retention, progression, and timely program completion. The school anticipates awarding scholarships to approximately ~~25~~ students, with funding targeted toward students ^{15 students} demonstrating financial need and academic potential. Scholarship support is expected to improve retention and completion rates and contribute to an estimated increase of 15 additional graduates entering Florida's nursing workforce. *S&S*

Funds allocated for faculty salaries will strengthen instructional capacity by supporting faculty involvement in clinical instruction, student mentoring, clinical supervision, and other activities that enhance student success. Clinical preceptor funding will support qualified nurse preceptors within the FAMU Primary Care Clinic, expanding opportunities for student direct patient care experiences in primary care and community health settings. These investments will strengthen workforce readiness and improve students' transition into professional nursing practice.

I. Onboarding & Retention of Graduates - Participating healthcare partners, in collaboration with alumni leaders, philanthropic donors, and community organizations, are committed to supporting the successful transition of FAMU nursing graduates into the workforce through mentoring, recruitment, onboarding, professional development, and retention initiatives. Partners will engage students throughout their academic journey by participating in an annual career fair, two employer networking events, guest presentations, clinical experiences, and informational sessions designed to increase awareness of employment opportunities across Florida.

To ensure graduates are well-prepared for entry into professional practice, 100% of graduating students will be provided with information regarding employment opportunities within partner organizations, nurse residency programs, mentorship opportunities, employee benefits, and career advancement pathways. Healthcare

partners will continue working closely with FAMU to strengthen employment pipelines and create opportunities for professional growth that promote the long-term success of newly licensed nurses. As part of this commitment, FAMU and its healthcare partners will monitor workforce outcomes by tracking and reporting one-year retention rates of graduates employed within partner organizations. These efforts will support nurse retention, enhance workforce stability, and help address Florida's ongoing nursing workforce needs.

II. Program Expansion - The proposed project will expand FAMU's capacity to address local, regional, and statewide nursing workforce needs through enhanced student support, strengthened faculty capacity, and expanded clinical education opportunities. Scholarship funding will help reduce barriers to degree completion, allowing more students to successfully graduate and enter practice. Faculty salary support will enhance instructional capacity and improve student access to mentoring, clinical learning experiences, and academic support services. Funding for NCLEX preparation resources and supplies will further strengthen student readiness for licensure, supporting successful transition into professional practice.

Funding for clinical preceptors in the FAMU Primary Care Clinic will expand high-quality clinical placement opportunities and provide students with experiential learning in primary care, chronic disease management, health promotion, and community-based care. These experiences are particularly important as healthcare systems increasingly emphasize preventive care and population health management.

Collectively, these investments will increase student success, strengthen clinical education infrastructure, and contribute to the preparation of a larger number of practice-ready registered nurses equipped to meet Florida's healthcare workforce needs. FAMU will continue to utilize statewide clinical placement processes and maintain partnerships with healthcare organizations to maximize clinical education opportunities and workforce impact.

**State University System
2026-2027 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund
Approval Certification**

Please affirm that this LINE Fund proposal being transmitted to the Board of Governors for consideration has been approved by the university in accordance with Board of Governors and university regulations & policies.

Marva B. Johnson
University President

8/3/2026
Date



**State University System
2026-2027 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund
Proposal Form**

University:	Florida Atlantic University
Contributor:	Palm Beach Health Network
Amount Requested:	\$200,000
University Contact (name, title, phone, & email):	Cameron Duncan, Dean 561-297-3207 Duncanc@health.fau.edu
Please check the boxes below as appropriate:	
Is contributor a healthcare provider as defined in Section 768.38(2), Florida Statutes?	☒ Yes
Nursing programs met or exceeded a first-time NCLEX passage rate of 75% for the prior year based on the 2025 Accountability Plan?	☒ Yes
The funds will be used for an eligible purpose per section 1009.8962, Florida Statutes?	☒ Yes
Does the proposal reach beyond the current academic year?	☐ Yes
Does the proposal include non-monetary contributions, and any necessary supporting documentation to show value of a non-monetary contribution?	☐ 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, 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.

Proposal Details

Provide a detailed narrative for each section below.

- I. Use of Funds** – *Complete the spreadsheets below and provide a narrative summary of how the institution plans to use the contribution, including how the funds will be utilized to increase student enrollment and program completion. If the proposal will include non-monetary contributions, provide documentation of an external, fair-market value evaluation of the non-monetary proposal.*

Student Scholarships	Palm Beach Health Network (PBHN) is committing \$200,000 to Florida Atlantic University's College of Nursing in support of student scholarships for nurse externs, particularly from the Accelerated BSN and Traditional BSN program, within PBHN. Students will receive \$10,000 for tuition, books, supplies, and program-related expenses.
Faculty Recruitment	
Faculty Salaries	
Staff Salaries	
Simulation Equipment/Resources	
Clinical Preceptors	
Licensure Exam Preparation	
Other (describe)	
Carry Forward, if any	
Total	

Anticipated number of additional bachelor's-level nursing education students enrolled as a result of the funds	0
Anticipated Number of additional master's-level nursing education students enrolled as a result of the funds	0
Anticipated number of additional doctorate-level nursing education students enrolled as a result of the funds	0
Total	0

Anticipated number of bachelor's-level nursing education students who receive scholarships as a result of the funds	20
Anticipated number of master's-level nursing education students who receive scholarships as a result of the funds	0
Anticipated number of doctorate-level nursing education students who receive scholarships as a result of the funds	0
Total	20

II. Onboarding & Retention of Graduates - *Describe in detail and with specificity how the health care partner will onboard and retain graduates.*

The Palm Beach Health Network consists of six acute care facilities in Palm Beach County. Our comprehensive onboarding strategy is established to provide a systematic and comprehensive approach to elevate clinical practice and patient safety. Clinical Education conducts a broad environmental scan to summarize trends and projected changes in health care, higher education, population demographics, learners and learning styles, the nursing workforce, nursing regulation, and patient/populations needs. To ensure that our patient care team members are ready for contemporary practice requires educators who have an awareness of evolving changes and the understanding of the science of learning and a commitment to adapting curricula, teaching strategies, and student learning assessment. Clinical Education provides our healthcare team with the knowledge, skills, and values for elevated practice through career-long learning.

Our system wide nurse onboarding includes classroom orientation, unit-based preceptorships, and ongoing education. Each nurse is provided with a comprehensive preceptorship that is competency based. There are established guidelines of recommended shifts with a preceptor based on the unit and level of care. Regularly scheduled evaluations are conducted with leadership and unit-based educators to assure the new grad RN is progressing and caring for a wide range of patients and to validate and document competency. Many units have unit educators (Clinical Practice Specialists) that provide unit-based education, training, and skills validation.

Orientation and Onboarding

The Clinical Education program is comprehensive, and activities are focused on assessment of employee learning and skills to ensure best practices

and competence at the bedside. Each residency has classroom and online training modules.

Some of the programs include:

- Nursing and Clinical Orientation
- Nurse Residency Program
- Specialty Residencies
 - i. Critical Care
 - ii. Emergency Nursing
 - iii. Peri-operative Nursing
 - iv. Pediatric Nursing
 - v. Perinatal Nursing
- Transition to Practice workshops
- Basic Dysrhythmia Training
- Preceptor and Mentor Training
- Phlebotomy and IV Training
- CPI De-escalation Training

Orientation and Residencies

Orientation
• Nursing Orientation • Orientation to the PBHN • Practices and Patient Safety • eMR training • NGRN Bootcamp with skill training • Comprehensive online Elsevier training on general and clinical knowledge for all nurses

Nurse Residencies and Specialty Training
• Acute Care Nursing Residency with classroom and simulation training
• Dysrhythmia/EKG training
• Perinatal Residency
• Perioperative Residency
• Pediatric Residency
• Critical Care Residency /CVICU Residency
• Emergency Nurse Residency
• NICU Residency

• Transition to Practice: Post Residency Program-held monthly with 4 different sessions offered quarterly. • Designed to focus on critical thinking, communication, problem solving, and review best practices. • Address gaps in clinical skills and knowledge focusing on resiliency, communication, patient safety, and prioritizing numerous demands in practice
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• Additional Courses and Certifications to be Offered at the Market Level •
• Intermediate and Advanced Fetal Monitoring
• OB Boot Camp
• STABLE for infant transport and care
• Nurse Extern Skills Fairs
• CPI for de-escalation and constant observers
• Trauma and Stroke courses for accreditation of programs
• Adult and Pediatric Mock Codes
• NIH, ACLS, BLS, PALS, NRP
• Phlebotomy and IV skills
• Preceptor and Mentor training
• Cerner Documentation Review Classes

Nurse Extern Immersion Program

One of the innovative training programs offered is for employed student nurses to be trained prior to graduation and immersed into practice to enhance patient management skills prior to licensure.

Goal: To immerse senior nursing student in clinical practice with a nurse mentor to promote recruitment, retention, and expedite orientation. The outcome will be retaining competent and confident nursing professionals.

Overall Focus

- Hire nurse externs after first semester and rotate to various units to assist in determining area of interest
- Align orientation with clinical preceptorship overlapping competency development with university / college curriculum and required outcomes
- Formalize partnership with nurse preceptors/mentors to promote retention in the facility

Nurse Extern Immersion Program

- Program Hallmarks:
 - i. Hired as Nurse extern and rotate to various units
 - ii. When in final semester, completes final practicum on unit of hire
 - iii. Begins 1:1 preceptorship with RN preceptor until transitioning to RN
 - iv. Attends Nurse Residency program, EKG class, and specialty residency upon graduation prior to NCLEX testing

Retention Strategies

- Regularly scheduled meetings with leader, preceptor, and unit based educator to review experience and learning needs.
- Weekly senior leadership meetings reviewing reasons for turnover, and strategies for retention.
- Transition to Practice sessions held quarterly.
- Recognition programs (Daisy award, Employee of the Quarter, Clinical Excellence program (ladder)

III. **Program Expansion** - *Describe in detail and with specificity how the funds will expand the institution's nursing education programs to meet local, regional, or state workforce demands. If applicable, include advanced education nursing programs and how the funds will increase the number of faculty and clinical preceptors and planned efforts to utilize the clinical placement process established in Section 14.36, Florida Statutes.*

Overview and scale. Florida Atlantic University Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing (CON) will use the Palm Beach Health Network (PBHN) contribution of \$200,000, eligible for a dollar-for-dollar LINE match, to fund scholarships for nurse externs who train and work across PBHN facilities prior to graduation. Each extern scholarship is \$10,000 for tuition, books, supplies, and program-related expenses. This financing structure will support up to 40 externs contingent on the state match, thereby expanding FAU's clinical throughput and accelerating graduate entry into the regional nursing workforce. Between expanding our Accelerated BSN program and adding a transfer program to support students entering as juniors or transferring from the state colleges, we are adding approximately 96 additional students in 2027. This provides much-needed scholarship support and career development.

Meeting local and regional demand. PBHN comprises six acute care facilities in Palm Beach County, providing immediate capacity for high-quality clinical learning experiences in the communities where CON graduates are most likely to live and practice. Placement within these hospitals enables externs to gain unit-specific competencies aligned to local hiring needs and hard-to-staff practice areas (e.g., critical care, perioperative, emergency, pediatrics, perinatal), which are supported by PBHN's established nurse residency and specialty residency infrastructure.

Expanding Capacity.

1. **Direct student pipeline growth.** Scholarships reduce financial barriers and allow CON to commit seats to students who accept extern roles early, thereby smoothing progression to final practicum and first destination employment on the unit of hire. The Nurse Extern Immersion Program places students before the last semester, aligns clinical competency development with university outcomes, and culminates in final practicum

on the unit of hire, which shortens orientation time and accelerates readiness for independent nursing practice post-NCLEX.

2. **Specialty pipeline expansion.** A dedicated Perioperative Nurse Extern Program will run three cohorts of ten externs annually to create a continuous pipeline of OR nurses. The program incorporates Periop 101 and service-line rotations, decreasing subsequent orientation time and reducing reliance on travelers in perioperative services.
3. **Competency and onboarding infrastructure.** Externs benefit from PBHN's systemwide classroom orientation, unit-based preceptorships, simulation, and competency validation, plus post-residency transition-to-practice sessions focused on critical thinking, communication, and resiliency. This structure ensures graduates enter the workforce as safe, competent providers and improves early-career retention.

Advanced education nursing programs (as applicable). While this request focuses on the pre-licensure pipeline, externs will complete advanced skill development integral to specialty readiness embedded within PBHN's residency framework. If future LINE cycles expand to graduate nursing, CON can leverage the same PBHN learning ecosystem to support advanced clinical immersions.

Increasing the number of clinical preceptors and (adjunct) faculty.

- **Preceptor growth and preparation.** PBHN will expand its Preceptor and Mentor Training and utilize unit-based Clinical Practice Specialists to onboard additional preceptors in high-volume units. CON will formalize preceptor rosters by unit, publish clear competency maps tied to course outcomes, and schedule extern-to-RN transitions that preserve preceptor continuity.
- **Adjunct clinical faculty pipeline.** In collaboration with PBHN leadership, CON will identify experienced bedside nurses (e.g., residency educators and Clinical Practice Specialists) for adjunct clinical faculty appointments to supervise student groups in PBHN units. While this year's LINE funds are dedicated to student scholarships, the partnership structure and PBHN's educator cadre expand faculty capacity without building new bricks-and-mortar infrastructure.
- **Recognition and retention.** CON and PBHN will utilize PBHN's existing recognition programs (e.g., Daisy Awards, Clinical Excellence ladder) to acknowledge high-performing preceptors and adjuncts, improving continuity and reducing turnover among teaching clinicians.

Expected workforce outputs and timelines.

- **Extern scholarships deployed:** Up to 20 awards at \$10,000 each (pending state match), with priority to students committing to PBHN units of hire.

- **Placement scale:** Continuation of the existing Nurse Extern Immersion pathway with ~70 students integrated into PBHN across cohorts, plus three perioperative cohorts (10 externs each) annually.
- **Time-to-practice:** Reduced post-graduation orientation time as externs complete unit-specific competencies before licensure and then enter PBHN Nurse Residency and Specialty Residencies immediately after NCLEX.

Sustainability. By embedding externs into their units of hire and aligning learning objectives with PBHN's residency and competency validation infrastructure, CON and PBHN will decrease onboarding time, strengthen early-career retention, and address persistent specialty shortages in Palm Beach County and the broader region. These outcomes can be sustained with recurring partner contributions and future LINE cycles.

**State University System
2026-2027 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund
Approval Certification**

Please affirm that this LINE Fund proposal being transmitted to the Board of Governors for consideration has been approved by the university in accordance with Board of Governors and university regulations & policies.


University President


Date



**State University System
2026-2027 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund
Proposal Form**

University:	Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU)
Contributor:	Lee Health System
Amount Requested:	\$325,000
University Contact (name, title, phone, & email):	Dr. Brenda Hage, Director FGCU School of Nursing, 1-239-590-7513, bhage@fgcu.edu
 Please check the boxes below as appropriate:	
Is contributor a healthcare provider as defined in Section 768.38(2), Florida Statutes?	☒ Yes
Nursing programs met or exceeded a first-time NCLEX passage rate of 75% for the prior year based on the 2025 Accountability Plan?	☒ Yes
The funds will be used for an eligible purpose per section 1009.8962, Florida Statutes?	☒ Yes
Does the proposal reach beyond the current academic year?	☒ Yes
Does the proposal include non-monetary contributions, and any necessary supporting documentation to show value of a non-monetary contribution?	☐ Yes ☒ NO

Background

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

Proposal Details

Provide a detailed narrative for each section below.

- I. Use of Funds** – *Complete the spreadsheets below and provide a narrative summary of how the institution plans to use the contribution, including how the funds will be utilized to increase student enrollment and program completion. If the proposal will include non-monetary contributions, provide documentation of an external, fair-market value evaluation of the non-monetary proposal.*

Student Scholarships	\$325,000
Faculty Recruitment	
Faculty Salaries	
Staff Salaries	\$ 87,230
Simulation Equipment/Resources	\$237,770
Clinical Preceptors	
Licensure Exam Preparation	
Other (describe)	
Carry Forward, if any	\$250,000 for BSN scholarships
Total	\$900,000 (\$650,000 in current requests and \$250,000 in carry forward)

Anticipated number of additional bachelor's-level nursing education students enrolled as a result of the funds	145
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Anticipated Number of additional master's-level nursing education students enrolled as a result of the funds	25
Anticipated number of additional doctorate-level nursing education students enrolled as a result of the funds	55
Total	225

Anticipated number of bachelor's-level nursing education students who receive scholarships as a result of the funds	25 (in carryforward scholarship funds from prior LINE grants)
Anticipated number of master's-level nursing education students who receive scholarships as a result of the funds	22
Anticipated number of doctorate-level nursing education students who receive scholarships as a result of the funds	12
Total	59

The Florida Gulf Coast University School of Nursing (FGCU SON) continues to foster outstanding student achievement and educational quality. Our Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) graduates consistently demonstrate exceptional success on the NCLEX-RN licensure examination and they are highly sought after by employers. Notably, FGCU's BSN program has had the highest NCLEX pass rates in the Florida State University System for the last four years (2022-98.48%, 2023-100%, 2024-100%, 2025-98.9%). The first two quarters in 2026 indicate that this level of excellence is continuing, with a 100%BSN NCLEX report. Graduate program outcomes include a 100% pass rate in the DNP Nurse Anesthesiology program and a 100% pass rate for the inaugural graduates of the DNP Nurse Practitioner Program Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner track. This year all test takers in the DNP NP Family Nurse Practitioner track have passed the national board exam with one left to test.

Lee Health remains an invaluable strategic partner in advancing the FGCU School of Nursing's mission to prepare the next generation of nurses for Southwest Florida. As one of Florida's largest nonprofit safety-net health systems, Lee Health operates five acute care hospitals—including a dedicated children's hospital—along with an extensive network of outpatient and post-acute care facilities. To address the region's continued population growth and expanding healthcare needs, the organization is constructing a new hospital in Fort Myers. Reflecting the strength of our longstanding academic-practice partnership, Lee Health has committed **\$325,000** to participate in the Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Grant Program for the fifth consecutive year. This sustained investment has strengthened our shared commitment to expanding the regional nursing workforce by providing significant student scholarship support while also enhancing the School of Nursing's laboratory and simulation resources and faculty numbers, enabling us to produce more highly qualified nursing graduates.

Since the inception of the LINE grant program FGCU has increased enrollment in the BSN program by 50% and added an accelerated BSN (ABSN) program for those with other bachelor's degrees wishing to pursue a career in nursing. Seventy Lee Health Scholars have received scholarships and additional applications are pending. We were also able to establish a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) program to assist in addressing the mental health needs of the SWFL community. This fall we are accepting applicants for our new post-graduate certificates for PMHNP, Family NP, and Adult Gerontology Primary Care (AGPC) NP. These post-graduate certificates allow licensed nurse practitioners the opportunity to add additional clinical qualifications preparing them to serve new populations. We have also been able to increase capacity

in the MSN in Nursing Education to produce much needed nurse educators to assist in alleviating the nursing faculty shortage allowing nursing schools to enroll more nursing students. MSN Nurse Educator graduates are also prepared to serve as staff educators in our local health care systems. This is a program of critical need as full-time nursing educators typically teach 100–250 students each year with the opportunity to influence 2,500–5,000 future nurses over a 25-year career. This fall we have started a new MSN option in Leadership and Management which will provide nurses with opportunities for advancement and leadership preparation needed to meet the growth and expansion needs of our health care partners.

Onboarding & Retention of Graduates - *Describe in detail and with specificity how the health care partner will onboard and retain graduates.*

Lee Health System offers strong onboarding and support for new 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. Lee Health's first year retention rate of new hospital based registered nurses is 92% compared to national rates which can be as low as 40-60% (Clement & Chappel, 2026).

At the master's level, new MSN graduates are mentored by experienced Lee Health nursing leaders and staff. Whenever possible, preceptorships are sought within the Lee Health System for MSN students. There is a formal orientation program for new hires which lasts for 3-6 months depending on the experience of the graduate. A clinical ladder and tuition reimbursement are also available for Lee Health employees for their continued development and advancement. Lee Health uses a shared governance model and the system has achieved American Nurses Credentialing Committee (ANCC) Magnet status in three of its five hospitals. Lee Health is actively pursuing Magnet designation in its two remaining hospitals.

II. Program Expansion - *Describe in detail and with specificity how the funds will expand the institution's nursing education programs to meet local, regional, or state workforce demands. If applicable, include advanced education nursing programs and how the funds will increase the number of faculty and clinical preceptors and planned efforts to utilize the clinical placement process established in Section 14.36, Florida Statutes.*

- I. 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 Master's prepared nurses. We anticipate that we will have an additional 10-14 students in the MSN in Nursing Education program. This program accepts students twice yearly to ensure a steady production of instructors needed for Lee Health System's clinical education department and for FGCU's School of Nursing. Lee Health The focus on this year's LINE grant will be on BSN and MSN program students. Lee Health has kindly allowed FGCU MSN Nursing Education graduates to meet post-graduation employment requirements of the scholarship through employment at Lee Health or within the FGCU School of

Nursing as they recognize the importance of continuing the nursing education pipeline to a steady supply of qualified BSN graduates.

FGCU offers a Master of Science in Nursing Education degree and we recently added a new MSN in Nursing Leadership and Management track starting fall 2026. The new program was developed to meet local health care institutions need for nurse managers and leaders to support new system initiatives and growth. The MSN in Nursing Leadership and Management can be earned as a dual degree with the BSN to DNP Nurse Practitioner major or it can be taken as a stand-alone degree. Fifteen students in the BSN to DNP degree program are in the process of applying for the MSN in Leadership & Management dual degree option. We anticipate that the stand-alone MSN in Nursing Leadership & Management will enroll an additional 14 students next fall.

We plan to use the \$325,000 in scholarships for students enrolled in the MSN in Nursing Education and MSN in Nursing Leadership and Management programs. Line funds will also be used for \$87,230 in salary and fringe support for a graduate clinical coordinator position to better support our growing graduate nursing programs. The remaining \$237,770 will be used to support the purchase of simulation equipment/supplies/training for the FGCU School of Nursing in support of students' clinical education. It is anticipated that we will also use \$250,000 in carryforward scholarship funds for the BSN program students.

Initiative #1	\$325,000	21 MSN scholarships averaging \$15,000 each (Lee Health funds)
Initiative #2	\$ 87,230	Graduate Clinical Coordinator staff salary and fringe (\$65,000 salary, \$22,230 fringe-BOG match)
Initiative #3	\$237,770	Simulation equipment/supplies/training (BOG match)

The proposed LINE grant addresses the shortage of qualified nurses for the Southwest Florida community. The project also has the added benefit of decreasing onboarding costs for new hires due to students' immersion in the Lee Health System during their education and training. LINE funding supports development of new faculty and nurse leaders critical to widening the pipeline needed to prepare more qualified nurses to serve health care systems needs in the region. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this proposal.

State University System
2026-2027 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund Approval
Certification

Please affirm that this LINE Fund proposal being transmitted to the Board of Governors for consideration has been approved by the university in accordance with Board of Governors and university regulations & policies.



University President

08/10/2026
Date



**State University System
2026-2027 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund
Proposal Form**

University:	Florida International University
Contributor:	Baptist Health South Florida
Amount Requested:	\$960,000.00
University Contact (name, title, phone, & email):	Dr. Jorge Valdes, Dean and Fellow, Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing and Health Sciences (NWCNHS)
 Please check the boxes below as appropriate:	
Is contributor a healthcare provider as defined in Section 768.38(2), Florida Statutes?	☒ Yes
Nursing programs met or exceeded a first-time NCLEX passage rate of 75% for the prior year based on the 2025 Accountability Plan?	☒ Yes
The funds will be used for an eligible purpose per section 1009.8962, Florida Statutes?	☒ Yes
Does the proposal reach beyond the current academic year?	☒ Yes
Does the proposal include non-monetary contributions, and any necessary supporting documentation to show value of a non-monetary contribution?	☐ 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, 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.

Proposal Details

Provide a detailed narrative for each section below.

- I. Use of Funds** – *Complete the spreadsheets below and provide a narrative summary of how the institution plans to use the contribution, including how the funds will be utilized to increase student enrollment and program completion. If the proposal will include non-monetary contributions, provide documentation of an external, fair-market value evaluation of the non-monetary proposal.*

Student Scholarships	\$960,000.00
Faculty Recruitment	\$0
Faculty Salaries	\$0
Staff Salaries	\$0
Simulation Equipment/Resources	\$0
Clinical Preceptors	\$0
Licensure Exam Preparation	\$0
Other (describe)	\$0
Carry Forward, if any	\$0
Total	\$960,000.00

Anticipated number of additional bachelor's-level nursing education students enrolled as a result of the funds	48
Anticipated Number of additional master's-level nursing education students enrolled as a result of the funds	0
Anticipated number of additional doctorate-level nursing education students enrolled as a result of the funds	0

Total	48
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Anticipated number of bachelor's-level nursing education students who receive scholarships as a result of the funds	48
Anticipated number of master's-level nursing education students who receive scholarships as a result of the funds	0
Anticipated number of doctorate-level nursing education students who receive scholarships as a result of the funds	0
Total	48

Baptist Health South Florida will invest \$960,000 to be used for student financial support to help cover the student's cost of tuition and fees for up to 48 eligible NWCNHS undergraduate nursing students ("Nurse Scholars") enrolled in the Traditional BSN and/or Accelerated Option BSN programs, in exchange for a two-year work commitment post-graduation. LINE matching funds would double the financial support investment to \$1,920,000, which would increase the number of Nurse Scholars to 96 versus 48. The funds will facilitate identifying qualified nursing students who are interested in working at Baptist Health South Florida facilities and would enhance retention of these nursing scholars upon graduation, as part of the Baptist Health South Florida nursing workforce in the State of Florida. Baptist Health South Florida would commit to investing time and resources toward onboarding, orienting, and enhancing the professional development of these new graduates as RNs. A copy of the letter of commitment is attached.

II. Onboarding & Retention of Graduates - *Describe in detail and with specificity how the health care partner will onboard and retain graduates.*

The Clinical Learning Department within the Center for the Advancement of Learning at Baptist Health South Florida facilitates competency training for nurses and other clinical partners and drives positive clinical outcomes by delivering evidence-based education, clinical orientation, professional development courses, and continuing education provided by the American Nurses Credential Center (ANCC). The department includes the ANCC-accredited RN Residency Program and the Competency and Clinical Advancement Program.

1. **RN Residency Program** has specialty programs in the areas of critical care, operating room, perioperative residency, and emergency medicine to help new graduate and transitional nurses gain experience, judgment, skills and confidence to have a successful practice.
2. **The Competency and Clinical Advancement Program** is designed for nurses eager to develop professionally, and it offers the unique opportunity to participate in shared governance; explore avenues for new knowledge,

innovations and improvements, demonstrate exemplary professional practice, and enjoy salary benefits.

III. Program Expansion - *Describe in detail and with specificity how the funds will expand the institution's nursing education programs to meet local, regional, or state workforce demands. If applicable, include advanced education nursing programs and how the funds will increase the number of faculty and clinical preceptors and planned efforts to utilize the clinical placement process established in Section 14.36, Florida Statutes.*

For fiscal year 2026-2027, the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences (NWCNHS) at FIU is targeting admissions to the Traditional BSN program at 110 for each of the two new cohorts starting in the fall 2026 and spring 2027 semesters. Total annual projected enrollments in the BSN program is 220 new nursing students annually. The Baptist Health South Florida commitment also increases the opportunities for both clinical rotation spots and future employment enhancing recruitment and retention of diverse undergraduate nursing students in both the NWCNHS Traditional BSN and Accelerated Option BSN programs. The Baptist Health Nurse Residency and Competency and Clinical Advancement Programs will provide additional clinical experience and expertise that will enhance the level of quality health care provided by FIU's nursing graduates. Additionally, the State of Florida will benefit from the increased enrollment in these nursing programs, since this will lead to an increase in newly licensed registered nurses entering the workforce. The State of Florida LINE matching funds will reduce financial barriers for nursing students coupled with the Baptist Health System support.

State University System
2026-2027 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund
Approval Certification

Please affirm that this LINE Fund proposal being transmitted to the Board of Governors for consideration has been approved by the university in accordance with Board of Governors and university regulations & policies.



University President



Date



**State University System
2026-2027 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund
Proposal Form**

University:	Florida International University
Contributor:	Memorial Healthcare System
Amount Requested:	\$100,000.00
University Contact (name, title, phone, & email):	Dr. Jorge Valdes, Dean and Fellow, Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing and Health Sciences (NWCNHS)
 Please check the boxes below as appropriate:	
Is contributor a healthcare provider as defined in Section 768.38(2), Florida Statutes?	☒ Yes
Nursing programs met or exceeded a first-time NCLEX passage rate of 75% for the prior year based on the 2025 Accountability Plan?	☒ Yes
The funds will be used for an eligible purpose per section 1009.8962, Florida Statutes?	☒ Yes
Does the proposal reach beyond the current academic year?	☒ Yes
Does the proposal include non-monetary contributions, and any necessary supporting documentation to show value of a non-monetary contribution?	☐ 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, 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.

Proposal Details

Provide a detailed narrative for each section below.

- I. Use of Funds** – *Complete the spreadsheets below and provide a narrative summary of how the institution plans to use the contribution, including how the funds will be utilized to increase student enrollment and program completion. If the proposal will include non-monetary contributions, provide documentation of an external, fair-market value evaluation of the non-monetary proposal.*

Student Scholarships	\$0
Faculty Recruitment	\$0
Faculty Salaries	\$100,000.00
Staff Salaries	\$0
Simulation Equipment/Resources	\$0
Clinical Preceptors	\$0
Licensure Exam Preparation	\$0
Other (describe)	\$0
Carry Forward, if any	\$0
Total	\$100,000.00

Anticipated number of additional bachelor's-level nursing education students enrolled as a result of the funds	12
Anticipated Number of additional master's-level nursing education students enrolled as a result of the funds	0
Anticipated number of additional doctorate-level nursing education students enrolled as a result of the funds	0

Total	12
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Anticipated number of bachelor's-level nursing education students who receive scholarships as a result of the funds	0
Anticipated number of master's-level nursing education students who receive scholarships as a result of the funds	0
Anticipated number of doctorate-level nursing education students who receive scholarships as a result of the funds	0
Total	0

Matching funds are requested for a \$100,000 gift commitment from Memorial Healthcare System which would double to \$200,000 with State LINE funds matching support at a 1:1 level. The Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing and Health Sciences (NWCNHS) would use the funds to help support the salary and benefits of nursing faculty and/or adjunct faculty. The funds would support the education and graduation of registered nurses to help alleviate the nursing shortage. The faculty/adjuncts supported by these funds will teach in the undergraduate nursing program and will supervise students in clinical rotations, provide excellence in supervision and teaching in all clinical settings. The support for faculty/adjunct position(s) will help the college maintain adequate numbers of faculty positions to meet accreditation and FL State Board of Nursing guidelines, for the supervision of students in clinical rotations.

II. Onboarding & Retention of Graduates - *Describe in detail and with specificity how the health care partner will onboard and retain graduates.*

NWCNHS will provide the Memorial Healthcare System recruitment team with a Clinical Partner Orientation Day, which will foster the opportunity to showcase the hospitals facilities, mission statement, goals, and expectation of the potential Generic BSN/Accelerated Option nursing student candidates, for the designated hospital assignment. The selected nursing students will remain at Memorial Healthcare System for the duration of the nursing program. Memorial Healthcare System will benefit from the opportunity to observe, mentor, and interact with the student(s) and the dedicated clinical faculty during clinical rotations. This opportunity will expose students to the Memorial Healthcare System culture and mission, as well as create a pipeline for recruitment and hiring of students prior to their graduation and licensure.

III. Program Expansion - *Describe in detail and with specificity how the funds will expand the institution's nursing education programs to meet local, regional, or state workforce demands. If applicable, include advanced education nursing programs and how the funds will increase the number of faculty and clinical preceptors and planned efforts to utilize the clinical placement process established in Section 14.36, Florida Statutes.*

The gift of \$100,000 from Memorial Healthcare System which would double in value to \$200,000 with a 1:1 State match would be used to support highly needed nursing and/or adjunct faculty position(s) in NWCNHS. Florida is projected to have a nursing shortage of nearly 60,000 nurses by 2035 and having sufficient faculty levels to teach the next generation of nurses is critical.

The financial support for nursing clinical faculty and/or adjuncts that will oversee students in clinical rotations at Memorial Healthcare System hospitals will support the expansion of the number of nursing students admitted to the NWCNHS BSN Programs and support student supervision in the clinical setting. The Nursing Accelerated Option (AO) program is a cohorted 4 semester program and the Nursing Generic BSN program is a cohorted 5 semester program. Therefore, this gift will foster the development and graduation of newly licensed nurses entering the workforce in 16 to 20 months from their respective program start date or in less than two years for both programs.

**State University System
2026-2027 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund
Approval Certification**

Please affirm that this LINE Fund proposal being transmitted to the Board of Governors for consideration has been approved by the university in accordance with Board of Governors and university regulations & policies.



University President



Date



**State University System
2026-2027 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund
Proposal Form**

University:	Florida International University
Contributor:	Memorial Healthcare System
Amount Requested:	\$30,000.00
University Contact (name, title, phone, & email):	Dr. Jorge Valdes, Dean and Fellow, Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing and Health Sciences (NWCNHS)
 Please check the boxes below as appropriate:	
Is contributor a healthcare provider as defined in Section 768.38(2), Florida Statutes?	☒ Yes
Nursing programs met or exceeded a first-time NCLEX passage rate of 75% for the prior year based on the 2025 Accountability Plan?	☒ Yes
The funds will be used for an eligible purpose per section 1009.8962, Florida Statutes?	☒ Yes
Does the proposal reach beyond the current academic year?	☒ Yes
Does the proposal include non-monetary contributions, and any necessary supporting documentation to show value of a non-monetary contribution?	☐ 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, 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.

Proposal Details

Provide a detailed narrative for each section below.

- I. **Use of Funds** – *Complete the spreadsheets below and provide a narrative summary of how the institution plans to use the contribution, including how the funds will be utilized to increase student enrollment and program completion. If the proposal will include non-monetary contributions, provide documentation of an external, fair-market value evaluation of the non-monetary proposal.*

Student Scholarships	\$30,000.00
Faculty Recruitment	\$0
Faculty Salaries	\$0
Staff Salaries	\$0
Simulation Equipment/Resources	\$0
Clinical Preceptors	\$0
Licensure Exam Preparation	\$0
Other (describe)	\$0
Carry Forward, if any	\$0
Total	\$30,000.00

Anticipated number of additional bachelor's-level nursing education students enrolled as a result of the funds	3
Anticipated Number of additional master's-level nursing education students enrolled as a result of the funds	0
Anticipated number of additional doctorate-level nursing education students enrolled as a result of the funds	0

Total	3
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Anticipated number of bachelor's-level nursing education students who receive scholarships as a result of the funds	3
Anticipated number of master's-level nursing education students who receive scholarships as a result of the funds	0
Anticipated number of doctorate-level nursing education students who receive scholarships as a result of the funds	0
Total	3

Memorial Healthcare System (MHS) will invest \$30,000 to be used for student financial support to help cover the student's cost of tuition and fees for up to 3 eligible NWCNHS undergraduate nursing students enrolled in the Traditional BSN and/or Accelerated Option BSN programs, in exchange for a two-year work commitment post-graduation. The \$30,000 in funds provided will be valued at \$10,000 per student award and LINE matching funds would double MHS's financial investment to \$60,000, which would increase the value of the awards to \$20,000 per student. This financial support will facilitate identifying qualified nursing students who are interested in working within the MHS system and would facilitate retention of these nursing scholars upon graduation from FIU, as part of the MHS nursing workforce in the State of Florida. MHS would commit to investing time and resources toward onboarding, orienting, and enhancing the professional development of these new graduates as RNs. A copy of the letter of commitment is attached.

II. Onboarding & Retention of Graduates - *Describe in detail and with specificity how the health care partner will onboard and retain graduates.*

MHS has implemented a Financial Assistance Program, a Nurse Residency Program, and an RN Fellowship program to enhance recruitment and retention of new nurses. MHS facilitates retention through the Partners in Success, Nurse Residency Program, and the RN Fellowship Program.

Partners in Success: MHS will give each FIU nursing student selected \$10,000 towards their tuition and fees in exchange for a 2-year work post graduation work commitment to MHS. Ideally, the LINE Funds will match the \$10,000 so that the 3 students would each receive a total of \$20,000 in financial support. These funds will ensure that Memorial Healthcare System increases the nursing workforce and improves patient care in the community. In addition to the financial support, Students chosen for the MHS Scholars program will be placed in a preferred clinical area during the last semester of their nursing program. Scholarship recipients are offered the ability to interview for Nurse Extern positions while attending school and a Kaplan NCLEX review will be made

available to them post-graduation. These initiatives will help with the retention of newly graduated program participants until RN licensure.

Nurse Residency Program: Research has shown that new nursing graduates are more successful when they are onboarded through a nurse residency program. The MHS Nurse Residency Program is designed to help recent nursing graduates gain the knowledge and hands-on experience they need to provide informed, high-quality care to patients. Additionally, the program's curriculum allows residents to connect and learn from one another through monthly meetings as well as provide tools and resources to support their professional growth and development upon completion of the program.

RN Fellowship Program: The MHS RN Fellowship Program provides a formal professional development pathway for experienced RNs with career goals to learn and transition to new specialty practice areas. These opportunities promote nurse satisfaction, retention and the ability to grow within MHS. The RN Fellowship Program also offers pathways to specialty certification and post-baccalaureate nursing education.

III. Program Expansion - *Describe in detail and with specificity how the funds will expand the institution's nursing education programs to meet local, regional, or state workforce demands. If applicable, include advanced education nursing programs and how the funds will increase the number of faculty and clinical preceptors and planned efforts to utilize the clinical placement process established in Section 14.36, Florida Statutes.*

For fiscal year 2026-2027, the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences (NWCNHS) at FIU is targeting admissions to the Traditional BSN program at 110 for each of the two new cohorts starting in the fall 2026 and spring 2027 semesters. Total annual projected enrollments in the BSN program is 220 new nursing students annually. The Baptist Health South Florida commitment also increases the opportunities for both clinical rotation spots and future employment enhancing recruitment and retention of diverse undergraduate nursing students in both the NWCNHS Traditional BSN and Accelerated Option BSN programs. The Baptist Health Nurse Residency and Competency and Clinical Advancement Programs will provide additional clinical experience and expertise that will enhance the level of quality health care provided by FIU's nursing graduates. Additionally, the State of Florida will benefit from the increased enrollment in these nursing programs, since this will lead to an increase in newly licensed registered nurses entering the workforce. The State of Florida LINE matching funds will reduce financial barriers for nursing students coupled with the Baptist Health System support.

State University System
2026-2027 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund
Approval Certification

Please affirm that this LINE Fund proposal being transmitted to the Board of Governors for consideration has been approved by the university in accordance with Board of Governors and university regulations & policies.

Jeannette M. Z...

University President

8/3/26

Date



**State University System
2026-2027 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund
Proposal Form**

University:	Florida International University
Contributor:	Riviera Health Resort / Victoria Nursing and Rehabilitation
Amount Requested:	\$20,000.00
University Contact (name, title, phone, & email):	Dr. Jorge Valdes, Dean and Fellow, Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing and Health Sciences (NWCNHS)

Please check the boxes below as appropriate:

Is contributor a healthcare provider as defined in Section 768.38(2), Florida Statutes? ☒ Yes

Nursing programs met or exceeded a first-time NCLEX passage rate of 75% for the prior year based on the 2025 Accountability Plan? ☒ Yes

The funds will be used for an eligible purpose per section 1009.8962, Florida Statutes? ☒ Yes

Does the proposal reach beyond the current academic year? ☒ Yes

Does the proposal include non-monetary contributions, and any necessary supporting documentation to show value of a non-monetary contribution? ☐ 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, 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.

Proposal Details

Provide a detailed narrative for each section below.

- I. Use of Funds** – *Complete the spreadsheets below and provide a narrative summary of how the institution plans to use the contribution, including how the funds will be utilized to increase student enrollment and program completion. If the proposal will include non-monetary contributions, provide documentation of an external, fair-market value evaluation of the non-monetary proposal.*

Student Scholarships	\$20,000.00
Faculty Recruitment	\$0
Faculty Salaries	\$0
Staff Salaries	\$0
Simulation Equipment/Resources	\$0
Clinical Preceptors	\$0
Licensure Exam Preparation	\$0
Other (describe)	\$0
Carry Forward, if any	\$0
Total	\$20,000.00

Anticipated number of additional bachelor's-level nursing education students enrolled as a result of the funds	1
Anticipated Number of additional master's-level nursing education students enrolled as a result of the funds	0
Anticipated number of additional doctorate-level nursing education students enrolled as a result of the funds	0

	Total	
Anticipated number of bachelor's-level nursing education students who receive scholarships as a result of the funds		1
Anticipated number of master's-level nursing education students who receive scholarships as a result of the funds		0
Anticipated number of doctorate-level nursing education students who receive scholarships as a result of the funds		0
	Total	1

Riviera Health Resort/Victoria Nursing and Rehabilitation (RHR/VNR) will invest \$20,000 to be used for financial support to award to one (1) Traditional or Accelerated Option BSN student to help cover the student's cost of tuition and fees for an eligible FIU NWCNHS undergraduate nursing student enrolled in the Traditional BSN or Accelerated Option BSN programs, in exchange for a two year work commitment post-graduation. LINE matching funds would double the investment to \$40,000, which increases the potential value and number of student Nurse Scholar awardees to two (2) Traditional or Accelerated Option BSN students. The funds will facilitate identifying two (2) qualified nursing students who are interested in working at RHR/VNR facilities and would enhance retention of these nursing scholars upon graduation, as part of the nursing workforce in the State of Florida. Additionally, RHR/VNR are committed to providing clinical training sites for these Nurse Scholars to complete the experiential portion of their curriculum. RHR/VNR would commit to investing time and resources into onboarding, orienting, and enhancing the professional development of these new graduates as RNs. A copy of the proposed letter of commitment and pledge terms from Riviera Health Resort and Victoria Nursing and Rehabilitation is attached.

II. Onboarding & Retention of Graduates - *Describe in detail and with specificity how the health care partner will onboard and retain graduates.*

NWCNHS will provide the RHR/VNR recruitment team with a Clinical Partner Orientation Day, which will foster the opportunity to showcase facilities, mission statement, goals, and expectations of the potential Traditional BSN/Accelerated Option nursing student candidates, for the designated facility assignment. The selected nursing students will complete clinical rotations available at RHR/VNR for the duration of the nursing program except for the specialties not offered at RHR/VNR. RHR/VNR will benefit from the opportunity to observe, mentor, and interact with the student(s) and the clinical faculty members during clinical rotations. This opportunity will expose students to RHR/VNR culture and mission, as well as create a pipeline for the recruitment and hiring of students prior to their graduation and licensure.

III. Program Expansion - *Describe in detail and with specificity how the funds will expand the institution's nursing education programs to meet local, regional, or state workforce demands. If applicable, include advanced education nursing programs and how the funds will increase the number of faculty and clinical preceptors and planned efforts to utilize the clinical placement process established in Section 14.36, Florida Statutes.*

For fiscal year 2026-2027, the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences (NWCNHS) at FIU is targeting admissions to the Traditional BSN program at 110 for each of the two new cohorts starting in the fall 2026 and spring 2027 semesters. Total annual projected enrollments in the BSN program is 220 new nursing students annually. The RHR/VNR commitment also increases the opportunities for both clinical rotation spots and future employment enhancing recruitment and retention of diverse undergraduate nursing students in both the NWCNHS Traditional BSN and Accelerated Option BSN programs. Additionally, the State of Florida will benefit from the increased enrollment in these nursing programs, since this will lead to an increase in newly licensed registered nurses entering the workforce. The State of Florida LINE matching funds will reduce financial barriers for nursing students coupled with the RHR/VNR support.

**State University System
2026-2027 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund
Approval Certification**

Please affirm that this LINE Fund proposal being transmitted to the Board of Governors for consideration has been approved by the university in accordance with Board of Governors and university regulations & policies.

Jeannette M. Lopez

University President

8/3/26

Date



**State University System
2026-2027 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund
Proposal Form**

University: Contributor: Amount Requested: University Contact (name, title, phone, & email):	Florida State University Mayo Clinic in Florida, Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare, BayCare, HCA Florida Capital Hospital \$2,277,000 Jing Wang, Dean and Professor, 850-644-3299, jingwang@nursing.fsu.edu
Please check the boxes below as appropriate:	
Is contributor a healthcare provider as defined in Section 768.38(2), Florida Statutes?	☒ Yes
Nursing programs met or exceeded a first-time NCLEX passage rate of 75% for the prior year based on the 2025 Accountability Plan?	☒ Yes
The funds will be used for an eligible purpose per section 1009.8962, Florida Statutes?	☒ Yes
Does the proposal reach beyond the current academic year?	☐ Yes
Does the proposal include non-monetary contributions, and any necessary supporting documentation to show value of a non-monetary contribution?	☒ 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, 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.

Proposal Details

Provide a detailed narrative for each section below.

- I. Use of Funds** – *Complete the spreadsheets below and provide a narrative summary of how the institution plans to use the contribution, including how the funds will be utilized to increase student enrollment and program completion. If the proposal will include non-monetary contributions, provide documentation of an external, fair-market value evaluation of the non-monetary proposal.*

Student Scholarships	620,000.00
Faculty Recruitment	
Faculty Salaries	292,000.00
Staff Salaries	
Simulation Equipment/Resources	
Clinical Preceptors	1,330,000.00
Licensure Exam Preparation	35,000.00
Other (describe)	
Carry Forward, if any	
Total	2,277,000.00

Anticipated number of additional bachelor's-level nursing education students enrolled as a result of the funds	3
Anticipated Number of additional master's-level nursing education students enrolled as a result of the funds	
Anticipated number of additional doctorate-level nursing education students enrolled as a result of the funds	18

Total	11
Anticipated number of bachelor's-level nursing education students who receive scholarships as a result of the funds	
Anticipated number of master's-level nursing education students who receive scholarships as a result of the funds	
Anticipated number of doctorate-level nursing education students who receive scholarships as a result of the funds	22
Total	22

Florida State University College of Nursing (CON) will collaborate with Mayo Clinic in Florida, HCA Florida Capital Hospital, Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare (TMH), and BayCare to support faculty salaries, scholarships to students, licensure exam preparation, and clinical preceptorships to increase enrollment and program completion. Additionally, in collaboration with the Office of Research, a faculty member will enhance the CON's evidence-based practice infrastructure for students, allowing them to explore this important area and receive a well-rounded educational experience before entering or advancing in the workforce.

All nonmonetary contributions (totaling \$1,330,000) are calculated based on the attached curriculum and the US Department of Labor's Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics for the partner's geographic area. Example: the local hourly mean wage for a registered nurse, multiplied by the 240 hours required per student for preceptorship, multiplied by the average number of students completing their preceptorship at the healthcare partner location equals the estimated nonmonetary contribution.

State LINE fund match may be used to support faculty salaries, purchase equipment for simulation, and provide tuition waivers, graduate assistantships, and scholarships to students to increase enrollment and program completion.

II. Onboarding & Retention of Graduates - *Describe in detail and with specificity how the health care partner will onboard and retain graduates.*

FSU CON will work with Mayo Clinic in Florida, HCA Florida Capital Hospital, TMH, and BayCare to support faculty salaries that can facilitate a robust evidence-based practice infrastructure within the college to ensure constant student learning and high satisfaction levels of the learning experience. Additionally, these healthcare partners and the FSU CON will provide scholarships designed to prepare students to practice at the highest level of their licenses. By partnering with these Florida organizations throughout the student learning experience, and by placing students directly in their healthcare settings during the last semester to gain valuable real-world experience and exposure to systems' structures and processes, there is a higher chance that healthcare partners will retain these students post-graduation.

III. Program Expansion - *Describe in detail and with specificity how the funds will expand the institution's nursing education programs to meet local, regional, or state workforce demands. If applicable, include advanced education nursing programs and how the funds will increase the number of faculty and clinical preceptors and planned efforts to utilize the clinical placement process established in Section 14.36, Florida Statutes.*

Specifically, we will use the funds to support faculty salaries to ensure we educate more highly skilled nursing students who have the knowledge and training needed to contribute positively to better healthcare in the state of Florida. Broadening exposure to research and evidence-based practice furthers the students' ability to understand the full breadth of the research evidence in improving the health and well-being of individuals and communities in our state.

The funds will also be used for scholarships to ensure they are prepared with the education and skills to translate evidence into practice, lead patient care teams, evaluate patient outcomes and promote system change at various health entities throughout the state, thereby improving the health of Floridians.

**State University System
2026-2027 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund
Approval Certification**

Please affirm that this LINE Fund proposal being transmitted to the Board of Governors for consideration has been approved by the university in accordance with Board of Governors and university regulations & policies.

University President

Date



**State University System
2026-2027 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund
Proposal Form**

University:	University of Central Florida (UCF)
Contributor:	AdventHealth
Amount Requested:	\$200,000
University Contact (name, title, phone, & email):	Dr. Sharon Tucker Dean, UCF College of Nursing 407-823-0878 Sharon.Tucker@ucf.edu

Please check the boxes below as appropriate:

Is contributor a healthcare provider as defined in Section 768.38(2), Florida Statutes? ☒ **Yes**

Nursing programs met or exceeded a first-time NCLEX passage rate of 75% for the prior year based on the 2025 Accountability Plan? ☒ **Yes**

The funds will be used for an eligible purpose per section 1009.8962, Florida Statutes? ☒ **Yes**

Does the proposal reach beyond the current academic year? ☐ **Yes**

Does the proposal include non-monetary contributions, and any necessary supporting documentation to show value of a non-monetary contribution? ☐ **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, 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.

Proposal Details

Provide a detailed narrative for each section below.

- I. Use of Funds** – *Complete the spreadsheets below and provide a narrative summary of how the institution plans to use the contribution, including how the funds will be utilized to increase student enrollment and program completion. If the proposal will include non-monetary contributions, provide documentation of an external, fair-market value evaluation of the non-monetary proposal.*

Student Scholarships	\$100,000
Faculty Recruitment	
Faculty Salaries	
Staff Salaries	\$100,000
Simulation Equipment/Resources	
Clinical Preceptors	
Licensure Exam Preparation	
Other (describe)	
Carry Forward, if any	
Total	

Anticipated number of additional bachelor's-level nursing education students enrolled as a result of the funds	
Anticipated Number of additional master's-level nursing education students enrolled as a result of the funds	
Anticipated number of additional doctorate-level nursing education students enrolled as a result of the funds	

Total	0
Anticipated number of bachelor's-level nursing education students who receive scholarships as a result of the funds	50
Anticipated number of master's-level nursing education students who receive scholarships as a result of the funds	
Anticipated number of doctorate-level nursing education students who receive scholarships as a result of the funds	
Total	50

Matching funds are requested for a **\$200,000 gift** provided by AdventHealth, which will be utilized for nursing student scholarships during the 2026-27 academic year and the salary support for operations/facilities staff supporting the new Dr. Phillips Nursing Pavilion.

\$100,000 is dedicated towards student scholarships which are a priority funding area for the UCF College of Nursing. The funds help alleviate costs related to their education and enable our students to solely focus on their academic success to more efficiently complete their degrees and enter the workforce as safe and competent registered nurses. One reason these funds are essential to our nursing students is that they are highly encouraged not to work, due to the rigorous curriculum.

The scholarship funding will support the AdventHealth Scholars program, which will provide tuition assistance for nursing students during the 2026-27 academic year. This Scholars program will provide students with an opportunity to work closely with AdventHealth nursing leadership to learn more about their hospital system.

The matching funds will be increasing the number of Scholars in spring 2027 and summer 2027. Our plan is to implement the Scholars program across the three cohorts of pre-licensure students. We are now admitting 500 new students annually, so the additional scholarships are of high need.

\$100,000 is dedicated towards staff salaries for facilities and operations positions supporting the College of Nursing's new building – The Dr. Phillips Nursing Pavilion. This new building allowed the College to increase student enrollment to help with the state's nursing shortage. To support the expanded instructional, simulation, and student learning spaces within the new facility, the funding will support facilities operations staff positions responsible for access control, space management, and coordination of building services. These positions help ensure that the facility is fully operational and capable of supporting increased student enrollment.

A portion of the funding will also support simulation operations staff responsible for managing and maintaining the College's advanced simulation equipment and technology. These staff members ensure simulation labs are operational, equipment is maintained, and faculty and students have access to high-quality

experiential learning environments that support clinical skill development and program completion.

Together, these positions provide the operational infrastructure necessary to maximize utilization of the new facility, support enrollment growth, and prepare more nursing graduates to enter Florida's healthcare workforce.

II. Onboarding & Retention of Graduates - *Describe in detail and with specificity how the health care partner will onboard and retain graduates.*

The Scholars will be placed in one of AdventHealth's hospitals in the Central Florida region to conduct their clinical placements. These clinical placements will provide the students with the education and training they need to graduate and successfully pass the NCLEX examination. They will also have the rich opportunity to work closely with their nurse preceptor and AdventHealth's leadership team, as they are dedicated to recruiting highly qualified Knight Nurses.

III. Program Expansion - *Describe in detail and with specificity how the funds will expand the institution's nursing education programs to meet local, regional, or state workforce demands. If applicable, include advanced education nursing programs and how the funds will increase the number of faculty and clinical preceptors and planned efforts to utilize the clinical placement process established in Section 14.36, Florida Statutes.*

With support from the State of Florida and our community partners, UCF will increase enrollment of pre-licensure Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) students this year by adding a new cohort of 60 students at the Dr. Phillips Nursing Pavilion in Lake Nona. The new cohort, which will start Summer 2027, is in addition to the 50% increase new pre-licensure BSN students we have already admitted annually since 2022. This will result in a total of 4,840 graduates eligible for licensure over the next 10 years.

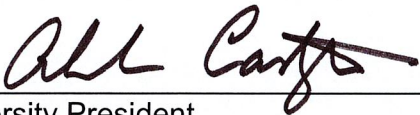
This directly contributes to local, state and national workforce demands. Florida is facing a shortage of 59,100 nurses by 2035, and 85% of UCF's 17,000 nursing alumni live and work in Florida — 60% live and work in Central Florida, one of the fastest-growing major metropolitan areas in the country. Additionally, by increasing BSN enrollment, UCF is meeting national demand for baccalaureate-prepared nurses. The Institute of Medicine called to increase the number of nurses with a bachelor's degree to at least 80% to strengthen patient safety, and the current workforce is at approximately 70%.

With support from the State of Florida, UCF has steadily increased BSN student enrollment to meet increasing demand. Since UCF received its first PIPELINE funding in the 2022-2023 academic year, UCF has increased enrollment by 69%. While increasing enrollment, UCF has continued a commitment to academic

excellence and supporting student success. UCF's BSN program is continually ranked among the nation's best by *U.S. News & World Report* and its graduates continually exceed both state and national first-time pass rate averages on the NCLEX, the national RN licensure exam.

**State University System
2026-2027 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund
Approval Certification**

Please affirm that this LINE Fund proposal being transmitted to the Board of Governors for consideration has been approved by the university in accordance with Board of Governors and university regulations & policies.



University President



Date



**State University System
2026-2027 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund
Proposal Form**

University:	University of Central Florida (UCF)
Contributor:	Nemours Children's Health
Amount Requested:	\$112,500
University Contact (name, title, phone, & email):	Dr. Sharon Tucker Dean, UCF College of Nursing 407-823-0878 Sharon.Tucker@ucf.edu
Please check the boxes below as appropriate:	
Is contributor a healthcare provider as defined in Section 768.38(2), Florida Statutes?	☒ Yes
Nursing programs met or exceeded a first-time NCLEX passage rate of 75% for the prior year based on the 2025 Accountability Plan?	☒ Yes
The funds will be used for an eligible purpose per section 1009.8962, Florida Statutes?	☒ Yes
Does the proposal reach beyond the current academic year?	☒ Yes
Does the proposal include non-monetary contributions, and any necessary supporting documentation to show value of a non-monetary contribution?	☐ 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, 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.

Proposal Details

Provide a detailed narrative for each section below.

- I. Use of Funds** – *Complete the spreadsheets below and provide a narrative summary of how the institution plans to use the contribution, including how the funds will be utilized to increase student enrollment and program completion. If the proposal will include non-monetary contributions, provide documentation of an external, fair-market value evaluation of the non-monetary proposal.*

Student Scholarships	
Faculty Recruitment	
Faculty Salaries	\$112,500
Staff Salaries	
Simulation Equipment/Resources	
Clinical Preceptors	
Licensure Exam Preparation	
Other (describe)	
Carry Forward, if any	
Total	\$112,500

Anticipated number of additional bachelor's-level nursing education students enrolled as a result of the funds	
Anticipated Number of additional master's-level nursing education students enrolled as a result of the funds	
Anticipated number of additional doctorate-level nursing education students enrolled as a result of the funds	10

Total	10
Anticipated number of bachelor's-level nursing education students who receive scholarships as a result of the funds	
Anticipated number of master's-level nursing education students who receive scholarships as a result of the funds	
Anticipated number of doctorate-level nursing education students who receive scholarships as a result of the funds	
Total	0

Matching funds are requested for a \$112,500 gift provided by Nemours Children's Health to fund a faculty role dedicated to advancing pediatric nursing excellence through a clinical-academic partnership. This is the equivalent of \$37,500 per year for three years to fund the program faculty member. This innovative role will bridge the academic environment at UCF and the clinical setting at Nemours Children's Health to support evidence-based practice (EBP), enhance nursing scholarship, and foster workforce engagement and retention.

With the match from the LINE Fund, together with the gift from Nemours, the funds will support the equivalent of 0.5 FTE faculty to lead and support EBP initiatives, with a dedicated focus on personal and professional well-being – not only for patients and families, but also for frontline nursing staff. Through collaboration with Nemours staff nurses, this individual will strengthen and increase successful completion of nurse-led EBP projects and build sustainable EBP competency among nursing staff that will improve clinical outcomes and practice consistency. Additionally, this individual will help mentor nurses through all stages of the EBP process, promote alignment between clinical EBP projects and organizational priorities, and facilitate dissemination of outcomes. These activities are strategically aligned to support nurse engagement and long-term retention in the workforce.

II. Onboarding & Retention of Graduates - Describe in detail and with specificity how the health care partner will onboard and retain graduates.

Undergraduate and graduate nursing students are placed at Nemours Children's Health to complete clinical nursing experiences across a variety of pediatric care settings. These placements provide students with opportunities to apply classroom knowledge, strengthen clinical judgment, develop essential technical and communication skills, and learn from experienced pediatric healthcare professionals. Through supervised, hands-on experiences, students gain the education and training necessary to meet program outcomes, graduate successfully, and transition confidently into professional nursing and advanced practice roles. This partnership supports the development of a highly skilled pediatric nursing workforce prepared to deliver safe, evidence-based, family-centered care to children and their families.

III. Program Expansion - *Describe in detail and with specificity how the funds will expand the institution's nursing education programs to meet local, regional, or state workforce demands. If applicable, include advanced education nursing programs and how the funds will increase the number of faculty and clinical preceptors and planned efforts to utilize the clinical placement process established in Section 14.36, Florida Statutes.*

With support from the State of Florida and our community partners, UCF will increase enrollment of pre-licensure Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) students this year by adding a new cohort of 60 students at the Dr. Phillips Nursing Pavillion in Lake Nona. The new cohort, which will start Summer 2027, is in addition to the 50% increase of 150 new pre-licensure BSN students we have already admitted annually since 2022. This will result in a total of 4,840 graduates eligible for licensure over the next 10 years. This directly contributes to local, state, and national workforce demands. Florida is facing a shortage of 59,100 nurses by 2035, and 85% of UCF's 17,000 nursing alumni live and work in Florida – 60% live and work in Central Florida, one of the fastest-growing major metropolitan areas in the country.

UCF plans to relaunch a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner (PNP) program in Fall 2027, with an initial cohort of up to 10 students and a goal of graduating approximately 30 pediatric nurse practitioners within the first five years. This program will help address increasing demand for providers with specialized pediatric expertise and improve access to high-quality pediatric care throughout Central Florida and the state.

Through direct collaboration with pediatric nursing leaders, advanced practice providers, and clinical educators at Nemours Children's Health, this faculty member will help establish clinical learning experiences, strengthen preceptor engagement, and support development of specialty pediatric clinical placements for UCF graduate nursing students. In addition, this faculty member will foster academic-practice partnerships that enhance student mentorship, evidence-based practice initiatives, and recruitment pathways into pediatric nursing careers.

This joint appointment exemplifies a shared commitment between UCF and Nemours to advancing pediatric healthcare through interdisciplinary collaboration. By embedding a faculty leader within the clinical setting, this advances a partnership model for integrating nursing scholarship and practice to improve outcomes for pediatric populations and support the well-being of the nursing workforce.

**State University System
2026-2027 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund
Approval Certification**

Please affirm that this LINE Fund proposal being transmitted to the Board of Governors for consideration has been approved by the university in accordance with Board of Governors and university regulations & policies.



University President

8/5/2026
Date



**State University System
2026-2027 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund
Proposal Form**

University:	University of Central Florida (UCF)
Contributor:	Orlando Health
Amount Requested:	\$200,000
University Contact (name, title, phone, & email):	Dr. Sharon Tucker Dean, College of Nursing 407-823-0878 Sharon.Tucker@ucf.edu

Please check the boxes below as appropriate:

Is contributor a healthcare provider as defined in Section 768.38(2), Florida Statutes? ☒ **Yes**

Nursing programs met or exceeded a first-time NCLEX passage rate of 75% for the prior year based on the 2025 Accountability Plan? ☒ **Yes**

The funds will be used for an eligible purpose per section 1009.8962, Florida Statutes? ☒ **Yes**

Does the proposal reach beyond the current academic year? ☐ **Yes**

Does the proposal include non-monetary contributions, and any necessary supporting documentation to show value of a non-monetary contribution? ☐ **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, 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.

Proposal Details

Provide a detailed narrative for each section below.

- I. Use of Funds** – *Complete the spreadsheets below and provide a narrative summary of how the institution plans to use the contribution, including how the funds will be utilized to increase student enrollment and program completion. If the proposal will include non-monetary contributions, provide documentation of an external, fair-market value evaluation of the non-monetary proposal.*

Student Scholarships	\$100,000
Faculty Recruitment	
Faculty Salaries	
Staff Salaries	\$100,000
Simulation Equipment/Resources	
Clinical Preceptors	
Licensure Exam Preparation	
Other (describe)	
Carry Forward, if any	
Total	

Anticipated number of additional bachelor's-level nursing education students enrolled as a result of the funds	
Anticipated Number of additional master's-level nursing education students enrolled as a result of the funds	
Anticipated number of additional doctorate-level nursing education students enrolled as a result of the funds	

Total	0
Anticipated number of bachelor's-level nursing education students who receive scholarships as a result of the funds	50
Anticipated number of master's-level nursing education students who receive scholarships as a result of the funds	
Anticipated number of doctorate-level nursing education students who receive scholarships as a result of the funds	
Total	50

Matching funds are requested for a **\$200,000 gift** provided by Orlando Health, which will be utilized for nursing student scholarships during the 2026-27 academic year and the salary support for operations/facilities staff supporting the new Dr. Phillips Nursing Pavilion.

\$100,000 is dedicated towards student scholarships which are a priority funding area for the UCF College of Nursing. The funds help alleviate costs related to their education and enable our students to solely focus on their academic success to more efficiently complete their degrees and enter the workforce as safe and competent registered nurses. One reason these funds are essential to our nursing students is that they are highly encouraged not to work, due to the rigorous curriculum.

The scholarship funding will support the Orlando Health Scholars program, which will provide tuition assistance for nursing students during the 2026-27 academic year. This Scholars program will provide students with an opportunity to work closely with Orlando Health nursing leadership to learn more about their hospital system.

The matching funds will be increasing the number of Scholars in spring 2027 and summer 2027. Our plan is to implement the Scholars program across the three cohorts of pre-licensure students. We are now admitting 500 new students annually, so the additional scholarships are of high need.

\$100,000 is dedicated towards staff salaries for facilities and operations positions supporting the College of Nursing's new building – The Dr. Phillips Nursing Pavilion. This new building allowed the College to increase student enrollment to help with the state's nursing shortage. To support the expanded instructional, simulation, and student learning spaces within the new facility, the funding will support facilities operations staff positions responsible for access control, space management, and coordination of building services. These positions help ensure that the facility is fully operational and capable of supporting increased student enrollment.

A portion of the funding will also support simulation operations staff responsible for managing and maintaining the College's advanced simulation equipment and technology. These staff members ensure simulation labs are operational, equipment is maintained, and faculty and students have access to high-quality

experiential learning environments that support clinical skill development and program completion.

Together, these positions provide the operational infrastructure necessary to maximize utilization of the new facility, support enrollment growth, and prepare more nursing graduates to enter Florida's healthcare workforce.

II. Onboarding & Retention of Graduates - *Describe in detail and with specificity how the health care partner will onboard and retain graduates.*

The Scholars will be placed in one of Orlando Health's hospitals in the Central Florida region to conduct their clinical placements. These clinical placements will provide the students with the education and training they need to graduate and successfully pass the NCLEX examination. They will also have the rich opportunity to work closely with their nurse preceptor and Orlando Health's leadership team, as they are dedicated to recruiting highly qualified Knight Nurses

III. Program Expansion - *Describe in detail and with specificity how the funds will expand the institution's nursing education programs to meet local, regional, or state workforce demands. If applicable, include advanced education nursing programs and how the funds will increase the number of faculty and clinical preceptors and planned efforts to utilize the clinical placement process established in Section 14.36, Florida Statutes.*

With support from the State of Florida and our community partners, UCF will increase enrollment of pre-licensure Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) students this year by adding a new cohort of 60 students at the Dr. Phillips Nursing Pavilion in Lake Nona. The new cohort, which will start Summer 2027, is in addition to the 50% increase new pre-licensure BSN students we have already admitted annually since 2022. This will result in a total of 4,840 graduates eligible for licensure over the next 10 years.

This directly contributes to local, state and national workforce demands. Florida is facing a shortage of 59,100 nurses by 2035, and 85% of UCF's 17,000 nursing alumni live and work in Florida — 60% live and work in Central Florida, one of the fastest-growing major metropolitan areas in the country. Additionally, by increasing BSN enrollment, UCF is meeting national demand for baccalaureate-prepared nurses. The Institute of Medicine called to increase the number of nurses with a bachelor's degree to at least 80% to strengthen patient safety, and the current workforce is at approximately 70%.

With support from the State of Florida, UCF has steadily increased BSN student enrollment to meet increasing demand. Since UCF received its first PIPELINE funding in the 2022-2023 academic year, UCF has increased enrollment by 69%. While increasing enrollment, UCF has continued a commitment to academic

excellence and supporting student success. UCF's BSN program is continually ranked among the nation's best by *U.S. News & World Report* and its graduates continually exceed both state and national first-time pass rate averages on the NCLEX, the national RN licensure exam.

State University System
2026-2027 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund
Approval Certification

Please affirm that this LINE Fund proposal being transmitted to the Board of Governors for consideration has been approved by the university in accordance with Board of Governors and university regulations & policies.



University President



Date



**State University System
2026-2027 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund
Proposal Form**

University:	University of Florida
Contributor:	UF Health -12 hospitals, 120 primary care & specialty practices, 26 emergency & urgent care locations
Amount Requested:	2,800,000.00
University Contact (name, title, phone, & email):	Dr. Shakira Henderson Dean, College of Nursing – Chief Administrative Officer, UF College of Nursing Associate Vice President for Nursing Education, Practice, and Research – System Chief Nurse Executive, UF Health University of Florida Phone: (352) 273-6324 Email: Shakirahenderson@ufl.edu
Please check the boxes below as appropriate:	
Is contributor a healthcare provider as defined in Section 768.38(2), Florida Statutes?	☒ Yes
Nursing programs met or exceeded a first-time NCLEX passage rate of 75% for the prior year based on the 2025 Accountability Plan?	☒ Yes
The funds will be used for an eligible purpose per section 1009.8962, Florida Statutes?	☒ Yes
Does the proposal reach beyond the current academic year?	☐ Yes
Does the proposal include non-monetary contributions, and any necessary supporting documentation to show value of a non-monetary contribution?	☐ 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, 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.

Proposal Details

Provide a detailed narrative for each section below.

- I. Use of Funds** – *Complete the spreadsheets below and provide a narrative summary of how the institution plans to use the contribution, including how the funds will be utilized to increase student enrollment and program completion. If the proposal will include non-monetary contributions, provide documentation of an external, fair-market value evaluation of the non-monetary proposal.*

Student Scholarships	1, 000, 000
Faculty Recruitment	500,000
Faculty Salaries	
Staff Salaries	500, 000
Simulation Equipment/Resources	2,600,000
Clinical Preceptors	1,000,000
Licensure Exam Preparation	
Other (describe)	
Carry Forward, if any	
Total	\$5,600.000

Anticipated number of additional bachelor's-level nursing education students enrolled as a result of the funds	300
Anticipated Number of additional master's-level nursing education students enrolled as a result of the funds	0

Anticipated number of additional doctorate-level nursing education students enrolled as a result of the funds	300
Total	

Anticipated number of bachelor's-level nursing education students who receive scholarships as a result of the funds	100
Anticipated number of master's-level nursing education students who receive scholarships as a result of the funds	0
Anticipated number of doctorate-level nursing education students who receive scholarships as a result of the funds	0
Total	100

The UF College of Nursing has strategically planned to utilize allocated funds across key areas—student scholarships, faculty recruitment and retention, student support staff recruitment and retention, and enhancements to equipment and simulation centers. These investments are designed to significantly increase student enrollment, improve program completion rates, and elevate the overall quality of nursing education provided at the College. Specifically, \$1 million will be used to provide tuition scholarships for 100 students enrolled in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program at both the Gainesville, Jacksonville, and upcoming new campus sites. These scholarships will remove financial barriers, making the program more accessible to a wide range of applicants. The scholarships include a 24-month commitment with a 12-month residency program, as applicable, offering hands-on experience in healthcare settings and are expected to increase enrollment and reduce attrition rates, resulting in a larger, well-prepared nursing workforce.

In addition, \$500,000 will be invested in faculty recruitment and retention, with a focus on teaching innovation, academic leadership expansion, and professional development. This includes funding for Competency-Based Education (CBE) implementation, clinical start-up packages, instructional design enhancements, expertise in new course development, and automation of faculty operations to enhance teaching and student engagement.

The College will allocate \$1 million to support clinical preceptors for the University of Florida College of Nursing's undergraduate and graduate programs, providing high-quality experiential learning opportunities for nursing students. These funds support compensation and engagement of clinical preceptors who provide direct supervision, mentorship, and evaluation of students in diverse healthcare settings. Investment in preceptor support helps secure and retain qualified clinical partners, expands student placement capacity, ensures compliance with accreditation and licensure requirements, and strengthens the clinical workforce pipeline needed to meet Florida's growing healthcare demands.

The College also plans to expand its faculty and student services, including support for student success programs and the academic-practice immersion program. Thus, \$500,000 will be allocated to support an inaugural mental health program, and student success support staff.

Furthermore, \$1,100, 000 will be allocated to upgrade skills lab software across all programs at all campus sites, including the establishment of open labs, AI agentic development, and virtual health technology. Another \$1,500,000 will be dedicated to updating Simulation Center equipment, modernizing existing tools and expanding simulation staff, ensuring students train with the latest advancements in nursing education. These strategic investments are designed to position the UF College of Nursing as a leader in nursing education, producing a skilled workforce ready to meet the growing demands of the healthcare industry.

II. Onboarding & Retention of Graduates - Describe in detail and with specificity how the health care partner will onboard and retain graduates.

UF Health, with its extensive network of hospitals, primary care, and specialty practices, has crafted a robust onboarding and retention strategy to seamlessly integrate UF College of Nursing graduates into its healthcare system. This strategy begins with a 12-month joint RN residency program, combining clinical rotations with mentorship from seasoned UF Health nurses, ensuring graduates gain practical experience and confidence. To further support new nurses, UF Health offers specialized preceptor training for experienced RNs, creating a nurturing environment where new nurses can thrive. In addition to this, UF Health is committed to retaining these graduates through ongoing professional development opportunities, competitive compensation, and clear career advancement pathways, including continuing education and leadership development. The comprehensive benefits package, which includes health insurance, retirement plans, and work-life balance initiatives, is designed to attract and retain top nursing talent, fostering a dedicated, highly skilled workforce that supports UF Health's mission of delivering exceptional patient care.

III. Program Expansion - Describe in detail and with specificity how the funds will expand the institution's nursing education programs to meet local, regional, or state workforce demands. If applicable, include advanced education nursing programs and how the funds will increase the number of faculty and clinical preceptors and planned efforts to utilize the clinical placement process established in Section 14.36, Florida Statutes.

The allocated funds will be instrumental in expanding the UF College of Nursing's programs to meet the growing workforce demands at local, regional, and state levels. By providing tuition scholarships for 100 students in the BSN program, the College will increase enrollment and produce a larger, highly skilled nursing workforce. Additionally, the investment in faculty recruitment and retention and student support staff will expand the number of educators, clinical preceptors, and student success program, enhancing the College's capacity to deliver advanced nursing education and support more students. The funds will also support the utilization of the clinical placement process established in Section 14.36, Florida Statutes, ensuring that students receive comprehensive clinical training in partnership with local healthcare providers, thereby aligning educational outcomes with workforce needs.

**State University System
2026-2027 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund
Approval Certification**

Please affirm that this LINE Fund proposal being transmitted to the Board of Governors for consideration has been approved by the university in accordance with Board of Governors and university regulations & policies.



University President

8/10/2026

Date



State University System 2026-2027 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund Proposal Form

University:	University of North Florida
Contributor:	Baptist Health
Amount Requested:	\$ 105,000
University Contact (name, title, phone, & email):	Mei Zhao, Dean mzhao@unf.edu 904.620.2810
Please check the boxes below as appropriate:	
Is contributor a healthcare provider as defined in Section 768.38(2), Florida Statutes?	☒ Yes
Nursing programs met or exceeded a first-time NCLEX passage rate of 75% for the prior year based on the 2025 Accountability Plan?	☒ Yes
The funds will be used for an eligible purpose per section 1009.8962, Florida Statutes?	☒ Yes
Does the proposal reach beyond the current academic year?	☒ Yes
Does the proposal include non-monetary contributions, and any necessary supporting documentation to show value of a non-monetary contribution?	☐ 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, 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.

Proposal Details

Provide a detailed narrative for each section below.

- I. Use of Funds** – *Complete the spreadsheets below and provide a narrative summary of how the institution plans to use the contribution, including how the funds will be utilized to increase student enrollment and program completion. If the proposal will include non-monetary contributions, provide documentation of an external, fair-market value evaluation of the non-monetary proposal.*

This proposal represents a strategic partnership between the University of North Florida (UNF) School of Nursing and Baptist Health to strengthen the pipeline of nurse leaders in Northeast Florida. Baptist Health identified the need to prepare current and emerging nurse leaders through the UNF Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) Leadership program, which equips nurses with advanced competencies in leadership, healthcare finance, organizational management, strategic decision-making, and quality improvement. Baptist Health will contribute \$52,500 annually over two years (\$105,000 total), for which we are requesting matching funds through the Florida LINE Fund, for a total investment of \$210,000. Of these funds, \$175,000 will provide scholarships for 10 Baptist Health nurses pursuing the MSN in Leadership, reducing financial barriers to their graduate education. An additional \$35,000 will support faculty efforts to develop and deliver the curriculum to a dedicated Baptist Health leadership cohort. This investment expands and strengthens the leadership workforce pipeline and prepares highly qualified nurse leaders to meet the evolving healthcare needs of Florida.

Student Scholarships	Scholarships for 10 students for \$17,500 over 4 semesters for FT (\$4,375 each semester) or 6 semesters for PT (\$2,920 each semester) = \$175,000
Faculty Recruitment	
Faculty Salaries	\$35,000 (to support teaching a larger MSN cohort)
Staff Salaries	
Simulation Equipment/Resources	
Clinical Preceptors	
Licensure Exam Preparation	
Other (describe)	
Carry Forward, if any	
Total	\$210,000

Anticipated number of additional bachelor's-level nursing education students enrolled as a result of the funds	0
Anticipated Number of additional master's-level nursing education students enrolled as a result of the funds	10
Anticipated number of additional doctorate-level nursing education students enrolled as a result of the funds	0
Total	10

Anticipated number of bachelor's-level nursing education students who receive scholarships as a result of the funds	0
Anticipated number of master's-level nursing education students who receive scholarships as a result of the funds	10
Anticipated number of doctorate-level nursing education students who receive scholarships as a result of the funds	0
Total	10

Baptist Health is one of Northeast Florida's largest healthcare systems and a nationally recognized Magnet® organization committed to developing the next generation of nursing leaders. The UNF Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) Leadership program prepares nurses for leadership roles by developing advanced competencies in healthcare finance, organizational leadership, strategic resource management, quality improvement, and evidence-based decision-making. Graduates are prepared to serve in high-demand leadership positions, including Nurse Manager, Clinical Coordinator, Director of Nursing, and Chief Nursing Officer, strengthening the infrastructure that supports high-quality patient care and the bedside nursing workforce.

Through this partnership, UNF will establish a dedicated MSN Leadership cohort for 10 Baptist Health nurses, creating a sustainable pipeline of highly prepared nurse leaders. Faculty will collaborate with Baptist Health leaders to ensure the curriculum remains responsive to workforce needs and emerging healthcare priorities. Scholarships will be awarded each semester to reduce financial barriers to enrollment, allowing nurses to complete their graduate education while remaining employed and serving the healthcare needs of Florida.

Onboarding & Retention of Graduates - *Describe in detail and with specificity how the health care partner will onboard and retain graduates.*

Baptist Health is committed to developing and retaining the next generation of nursing leaders through intentional leadership development and career advancement opportunities. The UNF MSN in Leadership will complement Baptist Health's existing leadership programs by providing graduate-level preparation in healthcare leadership, finance, quality improvement, and strategic management. By investing in the advanced education of its current nursing workforce, Baptist Health will strengthen succession planning, improve retention of high-potential nurse leaders, and ensure a sustainable pipeline of qualified leaders prepared to meet the evolving healthcare needs of Northeast Florida.

II. Program Expansion - *Describe in detail and with specificity how the funds will expand the institution's nursing education programs to meet local, regional, or state workforce demands. If applicable, include advanced education nursing programs and how the funds will increase the number of faculty and clinical preceptors and planned efforts to utilize the clinical placement process established in Section 14.36, Florida Statutes.*

By adding an educational requirement for nursing leaders at the director level, Baptist Health ensures that there is an adequate number of prepared leaders should future openings become available. Supporting their own nurses in obtaining this advanced degree will help with succession planning for these many positions. Expanding the UNF MSN in Leadership program by 10 students and establishing a dedicated Baptist Health leadership cohort creates a sustainable enrollment model that strengthens the long-term viability of the program. Consistent cohort enrollment allows UNF to sustain faculty capacity, enhances curriculum delivery, and positions UNF to enroll additional leadership students in future cohorts. In short, this scalable academic-practice partnership provides a framework for expanding graduate nursing education while addressing the growing regional demand for highly prepared nurse leaders.

**State University System
2026-2027 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund
Approval Certification**

Please affirm that this LINE Fund proposal being transmitted to the Board of Governors for consideration has been approved by the university in accordance with Board of Governors and university regulations & policies.



University President

August 10, 2026

Date



State University System 2026-2027 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund Proposal Form

University:	University of North Florida
Contributor:	HCA Healthcare South Atlantic Division
Amount Requested:	\$195,000
University Contact (name, title, phone, & email):	Mei Zhao, Dean 904-620-1444 mzhao@unf.edu
Please check the boxes below as appropriate:	
Is contributor a healthcare provider as defined in Section 768.38(2), Florida Statutes?	☒ Yes
Nursing programs met or exceeded a first-time NCLEX passage rate of 75% for the prior year based on the 2025 Accountability Plan?	☒ Yes
The funds will be used for an eligible purpose per section 1009.8962, Florida Statutes?	☒ Yes
Does the proposal reach beyond the current academic year?	☐ Yes
Does the proposal include non-monetary contributions, and any necessary supporting documentation to show value of a non-monetary contribution?	☐ 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, 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](#).

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Proposal Details

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The demand for anesthesia providers continues to outpace workforce growth nationwide. Recent workforce analyses project a shortage of approximately 6,300 to 8,450 anesthesiologists by 2036-2037, while anesthesia staffing shortages are already affecting healthcare systems across the country. At the same time, demand for Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) continues to rise, driven by population growth, an aging population, increasing surgical volumes, and anticipated retirements within the anesthesia workforce.

This proposal seeks LINE funding to support the advanced education and credentialing of Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs), building upon the successful 2024 partnership between HCA Healthcare South Atlantic Division (HCA H-SADiv) and the University of North Florida's Nurse Anesthesiology Program (NAP). Through expanded clinical training opportunities within HCA facilities, the partnership enhances hands-on learning experiences, strengthens student preparedness, and contributes to positive educational and workforce outcomes, demonstrating the value of continued investment in growing the region's anesthesia provider pipeline.

1) Student Scholarships: Building on the success of the 2024 HCA Nurse Anesthesiology Fellowship Program, HCA H-SADiv seeks to expand its investment by providing a \$10,000 scholarship to each student in the University of North Florida's Nurse Anesthesiology Program (NAP) cohort (33 students total) to help offset program

tuition and fees, totaling \$330,000. This investment will reduce financial barriers to advanced nursing education, support student enrollment and retention, and promote successful program completion, ultimately strengthening the pipeline of highly qualified nurse anesthetists serving the healthcare workforce.

2) Simulation Equipment/Resources: To support the maintenance and enhancement of simulation equipment and instructional supplies essential to student training, a funding request of \$20,000 is included to ensure students have access to high-quality, hands-on learning experiences that strengthen clinical skills, support competency development, and enhance readiness for anesthesia practice.

3) Student Academic and Professional Development Support (other): In addition to tuition assistance, each NAP student benefits from resources that extend beyond the classroom to support academic success and professional readiness. \$40,000 of this funding will assist with travel and registration costs for professional conferences such as the American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology (AANA) Annual Congress and the Florida Association of Nurse Anesthesiology (FANA) Annual Conference, as well as board examination preparation materials and related credentialing expenses.

As outlined below, HCA H-SADiv's total investment in the cohort is \$195,000, with the matching LINE funding requested from the State of Florida bringing the total project investment to \$390,000:

Student Scholarships (\$10,000 x 33 students)	\$330,000
Faculty Recruitment	
Faculty Salaries	
Staff Salaries	
Simulation Equipment/Resources	\$20,000
Clinical Preceptors	
Licensure Exam Preparation	
Other (software to support technology-driven learning, travel costs and registration for professional conferences)	\$40,000
Carry Forward, if any	
Total	\$390,000

Anticipated number of bachelor's-level nursing education students who receive scholarships as a result of the funds	0
Anticipated number of master's-level nursing education students who receive scholarships as a result of the funds	0
Anticipated number of doctorate-level nursing education students who receive scholarships as a result of the funds	33
Total	33

II. Onboarding & Retention of Graduates - Describe in detail and with specificity how the health care partner will onboard and retain graduates.

Students accepted into the NAP are current employees of HCA Healthcare (HCA H-SADiv) and will not require any onboarding. To retain graduates, HCA H-SADiv has developed multiple strategies that include, but are not limited to:

- HCA H-SADiv added a geographic stipend for HCA Memorial Jacksonville Advanced Practice Providers (APP) to standardize anesthesia APP compensation in the Jacksonville market. HCA Memorial and HCA Orange Park now offer the same compensation packages to meet competitor rates.
- HCA H-SADiv listened to feedback from the local anesthesia APPs and offered a 1099 employment option to make HCA Memorial Jacksonville more attractive to a larger pool of potential candidates. In addition, HCA H-SADiv has recruited additional 1099 providers. HCA H-SADiv is currently offering an Early Sign On Bonus Program for future anesthesia APP graduates to receive a monthly stipend while finishing their NAP.
- Furthermore, HCA H-SADiv signed a new Chief APP for HCA Memorial to stabilize the practice. In addition, new Division Chief APP Jeff Hafendorfer, started in November 2025, and he will oversee all employed anesthesia programs in the South Atlantic Division.

Given these significant investments in Advanced Practice Providers, HCA Orange Park Jacksonville and HCA Memorial Jacksonville are well-positioned to recruit, onboard, and retain future graduates of the CRNA program.

III. Program Expansion - *Describe in detail and with specificity how the funds will expand the institution's nursing education programs to meet local, regional, or state workforce demands. If applicable, include advanced education nursing programs and how the funds will increase the number of faculty and clinical preceptors and planned efforts to utilize the clinical placement process established in Section 14.36, Florida Statutes.*

The University of North Florida's Nurse Anesthesiology Program (NAP) is the only CRNA educational program in Jacksonville and serves as a vital pipeline for the region's healthcare workforce. Recent changes to federal graduate student loan policies, including the elimination of Graduate PLUS loans for new borrowers and the implementation of lower annual and aggregate federal borrowing limits, have increased the financial barriers to advanced nursing education for many students. While the program is not seeking to increase enrollment, these funds are critical to sustaining recent growth and reducing the risk of attrition among students who may otherwise be unable to complete the program due to financial hardship. This scholarship initiative will help offset funding gaps, making CRNA education more financially accessible while strengthening Florida's pipeline of highly qualified nurse anesthetists who are committed to practicing within the state.

State University System 2026-2027 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund Approval Certification

Please affirm that this LINE Fund proposal being transmitted to the Board of Governors for consideration has been approved by the university in accordance with Board of Governors and university regulations & policies.



University President

August 10, 2026

Date



**State University System
2026-2027 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund
Proposal Form**

University:	University of South Florida
Contributor:	Empath Health
Amount Requested:	\$25,000
University Contact (name, title, phone, & email):	Usha Menon, PhD, RN, FAAN, FSBM, FAAAS Dean and Senior Associate Vice President, 813-974-9091 umenon@usf.edu
Please check the boxes below as appropriate:	
Is contributor a healthcare provider as defined in Section 768.38(2), Florida Statutes?	☒ Yes
Nursing programs met or exceeded a first-time NCLEX passage rate of 75% for the prior year based on the 2025 Accountability Plan?	☒ Yes
The funds will be used for an eligible purpose per section 1009.8962, Florida Statutes?	☒ Yes
Does the proposal reach beyond the current academic year?	☐ Yes
Does the proposal include non-monetary contributions, and any necessary supporting documentation to show value of a non-monetary contribution?	☐ 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, 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](#).

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Proposal Details

Provide a detailed narrative for each section below.

- I. Use of Funds –** *Complete the spreadsheets below and provide a narrative summary of how the institution plans to use the contribution, including how the funds will be utilized to increase student enrollment and program completion. If the proposal will include non-monetary contributions, provide documentation of an external, fair-market value evaluation of the non-monetary proposal.*

Student Scholarships	\$50,000
Faculty Recruitment	
Faculty Salaries	
Staff Salaries	
Simulation Equipment/Resources	
Clinical Preceptors	
Licensure Exam Preparation	
Other (describe)	
Carry Forward, if any	
Total	\$50,000

Anticipated number of additional bachelor's-level nursing education students enrolled as a result of the funds	0
Anticipated Number of additional master's-level nursing education students enrolled as a result of the funds	0
Anticipated number of additional doctorate-level nursing education students enrolled as a result of the funds	0

Total	0
Anticipated number of bachelor's-level nursing education students who receive scholarships as a result of the funds	5
Anticipated number of master's-level nursing education students who receive scholarships as a result of the funds	0
Anticipated number of doctorate-level nursing education students who receive scholarships as a result of the funds	0
Total	5

The University of South Florida College of Nursing will collaborate with Empath Health to provide scholarship support to students during the 2026-2027 Academic Year. Empath Health has committed \$25,000 in funding.

Securing scholarship support is crucial to the success of our students, as the prelicensure program is incredibly rigorous and we highly recommend that students do not work outside while going through clinical rotations.

These funds will be used to provide tuition assistance to undergraduate prelicensure students enrolled in either the upper division program or accelerated program. Five students will be awarded this scholarship during their final two semesters.

These 5 students will be known as Empath Health Scholars, and will be provided the opportunity to work closely with Empath Health nursing leadership to learn more about their hospital system. These Scholars will also be paired with a USF faculty member who will monitor their progress towards graduation and NCLEX examination completion.

II. Onboarding & Retention of Graduates - *Describe in detail and with specificity how the health care partner will onboard and retain graduates.*

Empath Health Scholars will complete all required clinical hours at an Empath Health facility during their final two semesters. The cohort of five students will be given the opportunity to explore new nurse graduate pathways at Empath Health facilities and begin to build relationships with Empath Health nurse leaders. The prolonged exposure to the Empath Health organization will provide the opportunity for members of the healthcare team to interact and evaluate these scholars as potential new hires. Empath Health has a well-established Nurse Residency Program and hiring from the scholarship cohort would significantly reduce the onboarding time, as they will already have dedicated clinical experience within the Empath Health system.

USF College of Nursing will assign a dedicated faculty member to serve as the liaison for Empath Health Scholars. This role benefits both the students and the clinical partner site and ensures the best possible clinical experience. Our clinical

partners understand that a positive preceptorship semester allows for a seamless transition into full time employment and increases retention rates post-graduation.

III. Program Expansion - *Describe in detail and with specificity how the funds will expand the institution's nursing education programs to meet local, regional, or state workforce demands. If applicable, include advanced education nursing programs and how the funds will increase the number of faculty and clinical preceptors and planned efforts to utilize the clinical placement process established in Section 14.36, Florida Statutes.*

Scholarship support has been a crucial factor leading to our increase in prelicensure enrollment. By 2028, the USF Health College of Nursing will graduate over 450 undergraduate nurses each year. Through extensive partnerships with local and regional hospitals and health care systems, the college can provide practice-based training and confidently route new graduates to employment, fulfilling the critical need for nurses in Florida. We consistently demonstrate success in our NCLEX passage rates and for the year-to-date 2026 pass rate is 96.18%

**State University System
2026-2027 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund
Approval Certification**

Please affirm that this LINE Fund proposal being transmitted to the Board of Governors for consideration has been approved by the university in accordance with Board of Governors and university regulations & policies.

DocuSigned by:

Moey Limayem

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University President

8/4/2026 | 14:31 EDT

Date



State University System 2026-2027 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund Proposal Form

University: Contributor: Amount Requested: University Contact (name, title, phone, & email):	University of South Florida Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital \$32856.50 Usha Menon, PhD, RN, FAAN, FSBM, FAAAS Dean and Senior Associate Vice President, 813-974-9091 umenon@usf.edu
Please check the boxes below as appropriate: Is contributor a healthcare provider as defined in Section 768.38(2), Florida Statutes? ☒ Yes Nursing programs met or exceeded a first-time NCLEX passage rate of 75% for the prior year based on the 2025 Accountability Plan? ☒ Yes The funds will be used for an eligible purpose per section 1009.8962, Florida Statutes? ☒ Yes Does the proposal reach beyond the current academic year? ☐ Yes Does the proposal include non-monetary contributions, and any necessary supporting documentation to show value of a non-monetary contribution? ☒ 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, the fund shall provide a dollar-for-dollar match to the participating institution for approved proposals.

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Proposal Details

Provide a detailed narrative for each section below.

- I. Use of Funds –** *Complete the spreadsheets below and provide a narrative summary of how the institution plans to use the contribution, including how the funds will be utilized to increase student enrollment and program completion. If the proposal will include non-monetary contributions, provide documentation of an external, fair-market value evaluation of the non-monetary proposal.*

Student Scholarships	\$50000
Faculty Recruitment	
Faculty Salaries	
Staff Salaries	\$12861
Simulation Equipment/Resources	\$2852
Clinical Preceptors	
Licensure Exam Preparation	
Other (describe)	
Carry Forward, if any	
Total	\$65,713

Anticipated number of additional bachelor's-level nursing education students enrolled as a result of the funds	0
Anticipated Number of additional master's-level nursing education students enrolled as a result of the funds	0
Anticipated number of additional doctorate-level nursing education students enrolled as a result of the funds	0

Total	0
Anticipated number of bachelor's-level nursing education students who receive scholarships as a result of the funds	5
Anticipated number of master's-level nursing education students who receive scholarships as a result of the funds	0
Anticipated number of doctorate-level nursing education students who receive scholarships as a result of the funds	0
Total	5

The University of South Florida College of Nursing will collaborate with John Hopkins

All Children's Hospital (JHACH) to provide the below for the 2026-2027 academic year:

- 4 days of simulation for pre-licensure students including support from staff, supplies & equipment: \$15,713*
- 5 JHACH scholarships throughout the 2025-2026 academic year: \$50,000

John Hopkins All Children's Hospital has committed \$32,856.50 in funding.

Securing simulation resources and scholarship support is crucial to the success of our undergraduate students. Simulation resources provide undergraduate students with a high-quality simulation experience close to their didactic learning environment. Securing scholarships is important as the prelicensure program is incredibly rigorous and we highly recommend that students do not work outside while going through clinical rotations.

These funds will be used to provide tuition assistance to undergraduate relicensure students enrolled in either the upper division program or accelerated program.. Five students will be awarded this scholarship during their final two semesters.

These five students will be known as John Hopkins All Children's Hospital Scholars and will be provided the opportunity to work closely with JHACH nursing leadership to learn more about their hospital system. These Scholars will also be paired with a USF faculty member who will monitor their progress towards graduation and NCLEX examination completion.

*See graph for cost breakdown for non-monetary contributions:

Course Name:	JHACH - USF LINE 2026
Cost Per Student:	\$224
Itemized Price List:	
JHACH Staff Salaries (SIM Center)	\$9,970
JHACH Staff Benefits (SIM Center)	\$2,891
Professional Fees	\$1,720
External Instructor Fee	\$0
Supplies	\$440
Equipment	\$692
Meals	\$0
Travel/Parking	\$0
Room Rate	\$0
Course Price	\$15,713

II. Onboarding & Retention of Graduates - *Describe in detail and with specificity how the health care partner will onboard and retain graduates.*

Throughout the 2026-2027 academic year, students will be utilizing the state-of-the-art simulation center located at JHACH. This allows students to become familiar with the JHACH community and increase retention post-graduation.

Over a six-month time frame (two semesters) the cohort of five students will be given the opportunity to explore new nurse graduate pathways at JHACH and begin to build relationships with JHACH nurse leaders. JHACH will be given priority for clinical placement for these five students allowing them to understand the culture and service model of JHACH healthcare sites.

USF College of Nursing will assign a dedicated faculty member to serve as the liaison for JHACH Scholars. This role benefits both the students and the clinical partner site and ensures the best possible clinical experience. Our clinical partners understand that a positive preceptorship semester allows for a seamless transition into full time employment and increases retention rates post-graduation.

JHACH Scholars will complete specialty (pediatric) required clinical hours at a JHACH facility during their final two semesters. The prolonged exposure to the JHACH organization will provide the opportunity for members of the healthcare team to interact and evaluate these scholars as potential new hires. JHACH has a well-established Nurse Residency Program and hiring from the scholarship cohort would significantly reduce the onboarding time, as they will already have dedicated clinical experience within the JHACH system.

Additionally, pre-licensure students who participate in a day of simulation at JHACH are not necessarily one of the JHACH Scholars. This opportunity to participate in simulation at JHACH, allows more students to experience a different facility and learn about JHACH.

III. Program Expansion - *Describe in detail and with specificity how the funds will expand the institution's nursing education programs to meet local, regional, or state workforce demands. If applicable, include advanced education nursing programs and how the funds will increase the number of faculty and clinical preceptors and planned efforts to utilize the clinical placement process established in Section 14.36, Florida Statutes.*

The JHACH partnership provides students with the opportunity for more meaningful exposure to a large pediatric population with complex healthcare needs. Through this experience, students become aware of their potential role in improving health outcomes for infants, children, and adolescents in Pinellas County.

Scholarship support has been an important factor leading to our increase in prelicensure enrollment. By 2028, the USF Health College of Nursing will graduate over 450 undergraduate nurses each year. Through extensive partnerships with local and regional hospitals and health care systems, the college can provide practice-based training and confidently route new graduates to employment, fulfilling the critical need for nurses in Florida. We consistently demonstrate success in our NCLEX passage rates and for the year-to-date 2026 pass rate is 96.18%.

Through extensive partnerships with local and regional hospitals and health care systems, the College can provide practice-based training and confidently route new graduates to employment, fulfilling the critical need for nurses in Florida.

**State University System
2026-2027 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund
Approval Certification**

Please affirm that this LINE Fund proposal being transmitted to the Board of Governors for consideration has been approved by the university in accordance with Board of Governors and university regulations & policies.

DocuSigned by:

Moe Limayem

A122F9AE551D48C...

University President

8/4/2026 | 14:31 EDT

Date



State University System 2026-2027 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund Proposal Form

University: Contributor: Amount Requested: University Contact (name, title, phone, & email):	University of South Florida H. Lee Moffitt Comprehensive Cancer Center \$50,000 Usha Menon, PhD, RN, FAAN, FSBM, FAAAS Dean and Senior Associate Vice President, 813-974-9091 umenon@usf.edu
Please check the boxes below as appropriate: Is contributor a healthcare provider as defined in Section 768.38(2), Florida Statutes? ☒ Yes Nursing programs met or exceeded a first-time NCLEX passage rate of 75% for the prior year based on the 2025 Accountability Plan? ☒ Yes The funds will be used for an eligible purpose per section 1009.8962, Florida Statutes? ☒ Yes Does the proposal reach beyond the current academic year? ☐ Yes Does the proposal include non-monetary contributions, and any necessary supporting documentation to show value of a non-monetary contribution? ☐ Yes	

Background

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Student Scholarships	
Faculty Recruitment	
Faculty Salaries	
Staff Salaries	
Simulation Equipment/Resources	
Clinical Preceptors	
Licensure Exam Preparation	\$100,000
Other (describe)	
Carry Forward, if any	
Total	\$100,000

Anticipated number of additional bachelor's-level nursing education students enrolled as a result of the funds	0
Anticipated Number of additional master's-level nursing education students enrolled as a result of the funds	0
Anticipated number of additional doctorate-level nursing education students enrolled as a result of the funds	0

Total	0
Anticipated number of bachelor's-level nursing education students who receive scholarships as a result of the funds	330
Anticipated number of master's-level nursing education students who receive scholarships as a result of the funds	0
Anticipated number of doctorate-level nursing education students who receive scholarships as a result of the funds	0
Total	330

The University of South Florida College of Nursing will collaborate with H. Lee Moffitt Comprehensive Cancer Center (Moffitt Cancer Center) to provide funds to support students in paying for either their NCLEX-RN test preparation or NCLEX-RN licensure examination during the 26-27 Academic Year. Moffitt Cancer Center has committed to \$50,000 in funding.

Passing the NCLEX-RN exam is necessary for the transition to practice as a Registered Nurse. Support for students' test preparation and RN licensure examination fees is therefore crucial to their success.

These funds will be used to provide financial assistance to all graduating undergraduate prelicensure students supporting either their NCLEX-RN test preparation or the NCLEX-RN licensure examination.

Over the 2026-2027 academic year, every undergraduate nursing student will be impacted by Moffitt Cancer Center's generous financial contribution towards their test preparation and/or licensure exam, elevating their impact and influence on the future nursing workforce with the potential of increasing Moffitt's future hiring pool from the same cohort of undergraduate nursing students.

II. Onboarding & Retention of Graduates - *Describe in detail and with specificity how the health care partner will onboard and retain graduates.*

Over a six-month period (two semesters) the cohort of 330 students will be given the opportunity to apply the financial assistance supplied to them from Moffitt Cancer Center towards NCLEX-RN test preparation or fees associated with the NCLEX-RN licensure

USF College of Nursing's mission is to employ the core values of excellence, innovation, and respect to educate future nurses, advance nursing science, and implement evidence-based clinical practice to improve health and wellness. Moffitt Cancer Center's generous financial contribution allows for a seamless transition into full-time employment and increases the possibility of higher NCLEX-RN pass rates.

III. Program Expansion - *Describe in detail and with specificity how the funds will expand the institution's nursing education programs to meet local, regional, or state workforce demands. If applicable, include advanced education nursing programs and how the funds will increase the*

number of faculty and clinical preceptors and planned efforts to utilize the clinical placement process established in Section 14.36, Florida Statutes.

Passing the NCLEX-RN is necessary for the transition to practice as a Registered Nurse.

Support for the students’ test preparation and RN licensure examination fees is therefore crucial to their success. USF College of Nursing is proud of our pass rates that exceed the average for Florida and the U.S.:

NCLEX Pass Rates (2025):
Florida State Average81.82%
National Average86.70%
USF College of Nursing94.18%

Through extensive partnership with local and regional hospitals and health care systems, the College can provide practice-based training and confidently route new graduates to employment, fulfilling the critical need for nurses in Florida.

**State University System
2026-2027 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund
Approval Certification**

Please affirm that this LINE Fund proposal being transmitted to the Board of Governors for consideration has been approved by the university in accordance with Board of Governors and university regulations & policies.

DocuSigned by:
Moez Limayem
A122F9AE551D48C...
University President

8/4/2026 | 14:31 EDT
Date



State University System 2026-2027 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund Proposal Form

University: Contributor: Amount Requested: University Contact (name, title, phone, & email):	University of South Florida Orlando Health Bayfront \$25,000 Usha Menon, PhD, RN, FAAN, FSBM, FAAAS Dean and Senior Associate Vice President, 813-974-9091 umenon@usf.edu
Please check the boxes below as appropriate: Is contributor a healthcare provider as defined in Section 768.38(2), Florida Statutes? ☒ Yes Nursing programs met or exceeded a first-time NCLEX passage rate of 75% for the prior year based on the 2025 Accountability Plan? ☒ Yes The funds will be used for an eligible purpose per section 1009.8962, Florida Statutes? ☒ Yes Does the proposal reach beyond the current academic year? ☐ Yes Does the proposal include non-monetary contributions, and any necessary supporting documentation to show value of a non-monetary contribution? ☐ 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, 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.

Proposal Details

Provide a detailed narrative for each section below.

- I. Use of Funds –** *Complete the spreadsheets below and provide a narrative summary of how the institution plans to use the contribution, including how the funds will be utilized to increase student enrollment and program completion. If the proposal will include non-monetary contributions, provide documentation of an external, fair-market value evaluation of the non-monetary proposal.*

Student Scholarships	\$50,000
Faculty Recruitment	
Faculty Salaries	
Staff Salaries	
Simulation Equipment/Resources	
Clinical Preceptors	
Licensure Exam Preparation	
Other (describe)	
Carry Forward, if any	
Total	\$50,000

Anticipated number of additional bachelor's-level nursing education students enrolled as a result of the funds	0
Anticipated Number of additional master's-level nursing education students enrolled as a result of the funds	0
Anticipated number of additional doctorate-level nursing education students enrolled as a result of the funds	0

Total	0
Anticipated number of bachelor's-level nursing education students who receive scholarships as a result of the funds	5
Anticipated number of master's-level nursing education students who receive scholarships as a result of the funds	0
Anticipated number of doctorate-level nursing education students who receive scholarships as a result of the funds	0
Total	5

The University of South Florida College of Nursing will collaborate with Orlando Health Bayfront to provide scholarship support to students during the 2026-2027 Academic Year. Orlando Health Bayfront has committed \$25,000 in funding.

Securing scholarship support is crucial to the success of our students, as the prelicensure program is incredibly rigorous and we highly recommend that students do not work outside while going through clinical rotations.

These funds will be used to provide tuition assistance to undergraduate prelicensure students enrolled in either the upper division program or accelerated program. Five students will be awarded this scholarship during their final two semesters.

These 5 students will be known as Orlando Health Bayfront Scholars, and will be provided the opportunity to work closely with Orlando Health Bayfront nursing leadership to learn more about their hospital system. These Scholars will also be paired with a USF faculty member who will monitor their progress towards graduation and NCLEX examination completion.

II. Onboarding & Retention of Graduates - *Describe in detail and with specificity how the health care partner will onboard and retain graduates.*

Orlando Health Bayfront Scholars will complete all required clinical hours at an Orlando Health facility during their final two semesters. The cohort of five students will be given the opportunity to explore new nurse graduate pathways at Orlando Health facilities and begin to build relationships with Orlando Health nurse leaders. The prolonged exposure to the Orlando Health organization will provide the opportunity for members of the healthcare team to interact and evaluate these scholars as potential new hires. Orlando Health has a well-established Nurse Residency Program and hiring from the scholarship cohort would significantly reduce the onboarding time, as they will already have dedicated clinical experience within the Orlando Health system.

USF College of Nursing will assign a dedicated faculty member to serve as the liaison for Orlando Health Scholars. This role benefits both the students and the clinical partner site and ensures the best possible clinical experience. Our clinical

partners understand that a positive preceptorship semester allows for a seamless transition into full time employment and increases retention rates post-graduation.

III. Program Expansion - *Describe in detail and with specificity how the funds will expand the institution's nursing education programs to meet local, regional, or state workforce demands. If applicable, include advanced education nursing programs and how the funds will increase the number of faculty and clinical preceptors and planned efforts to utilize the clinical placement process established in Section 14.36, Florida Statutes.*

Scholarship support has been a crucial factor leading to our increase in prelicensure enrollment. By 2028, the USF Health College of Nursing will graduate over 450 undergraduate nurses each year. Through extensive partnerships with local and regional hospitals and health care systems, the college can provide practice-based training and confidently route new graduates to employment, fulfilling the critical need for nurses in Florida. We consistently demonstrate success in our NCLEX passage rates and for the year-to-date 2026 pass rate is 96.18%

**State University System
2026-2027 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund
Approval Certification**

Please affirm that this LINE Fund proposal being transmitted to the Board of Governors for consideration has been approved by the university in accordance with Board of Governors and university regulations & policies.

DocuSigned by:

Moey Limayem

A122F9AE551D48C...

University President

8/4/2026 | 14:31 EDT

Date



State University System 2026-2027 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund Proposal Form

University: Contributor: Amount Requested: University Contact (name, title, phone, & email):	University of South Florida Sunshine Health \$25,000 Usha Menon, PhD, RN, FAAN, FSBM, FAAAS Dean and Senior Associate Vice President, 813-974-9091 umenon@usf.edu
Please check the boxes below as appropriate: Is contributor a healthcare provider as defined in Section 768.38(2), Florida Statutes? ☒ Yes Nursing programs met or exceeded a first-time NCLEX passage rate of 75% for the prior year based on the 2025 Accountability Plan? ☒ Yes The funds will be used for an eligible purpose per section 1009.8962, Florida Statutes? ☒ Yes Does the proposal reach beyond the current academic year? ☐ Yes Does the proposal include non-monetary contributions, and any necessary supporting documentation to show value of a non-monetary contribution? ☐ 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, 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.

Proposal Details

Provide a detailed narrative for each section below.

- I. Use of Funds** – *Complete the spreadsheets below and provide a narrative summary of how the institution plans to use the contribution, including how the funds will be utilized to increase student enrollment and program completion. If the proposal will include non-monetary contributions, provide documentation of an external, fair-market value evaluation of the non-monetary proposal.*

Student Scholarships	
Faculty Recruitment	
Faculty Salaries	
Staff Salaries	
Simulation Equipment/Resources	
Clinical Preceptors	
Licensure Exam Preparation	\$50000
Other (describe)	
Carry Forward, if any	
Total	\$50000

Anticipated number of additional bachelor's-level nursing education students enrolled as a result of the funds	0
Anticipated Number of additional master's-level nursing education students enrolled as a result of the funds	0
Anticipated number of additional doctorate-level nursing education students enrolled as a result of the funds	0

Total	0
Anticipated number of bachelor's-level nursing education students who receive scholarships as a result of the funds	330
Anticipated number of master's-level nursing education students who receive scholarships as a result of the funds	0
Anticipated number of doctorate-level nursing education students who receive scholarships as a result of the funds	0
Total	330

The University of South Florida College of Nursing will collaborate with Sunshine Health to provide funds to support students in paying for either their NCLEX-RN test preparation or NCLEX-RN licensure examination during the 26-27 Academic Year. Sunshine Health has committed to \$25,000 in funding.

Passing the NCLEX-RN exam is necessary for the transition to practice as a Registered Nurse. Support for students' test preparation and RN licensure examination fees is therefore crucial to their success.

These funds will be used to provide financial assistance to all graduating undergraduate prelicensure students supporting either their NCLEX-RN test preparation or the NCLEX-RN licensure examination.

Over the 2026-2027 academic year, every undergraduate nursing student will be impacted by Sunshine Health's generous financial contribution towards their test preparation and/or licensure exam, elevating their impact and influence on the future nursing workforce with the potential of increasing their future hiring pool from the same cohort of undergraduate nursing students.

II. Onboarding & Retention of Graduates - *Describe in detail and with specificity how the health care partner will onboard and retain graduates.*

Over a six-month period (two semesters) the cohort of 330 students will be given the opportunity to apply the financial assistance supplied to them from Sunshine Health towards NCLEX-RN test preparation or fees associated with the NCLEX-RN licensure

USF College of Nursing's mission is to employ the core values of excellence, innovation, and respect to educate future nurses, advance nursing science, and implement evidence-based clinical practice to improve health and wellness. Sunshine Health's generous financial contribution allows for a seamless transition into full-time employment and increases the possibility of higher NCLEX-RN pass rates.

III. Program Expansion - *Describe in detail and with specificity how the funds will expand the institution's nursing education programs to meet local, regional, or state workforce demands. If applicable, include advanced education nursing programs and how the funds will increase the number of faculty and clinical preceptors and planned efforts to utilize*

the clinical placement process established in Section 14.36, Florida Statutes.

Passing the NCLEX-RN is necessary for the transition to practice as a Registered Nurse.

Support for the students’ test preparation and RN licensure examination fees is therefore crucial to their success. USF College of Nursing is proud of our pass rates that exceed the average for Florida and the U.S.:

NCLEX Pass Rates (2025):

Florida State Average	81.82%
National Average	86.70%
USF College of Nursing	94.18%

Through extensive partnerships with local and regional hospitals and health care systems, the College can provide practice-based training and confidently route new graduates to employment, fulfilling the critical need for nurses in Florida.

**State University System
2026-2027 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund
Approval Certification**

Please affirm that this LINE Fund proposal being transmitted to the Board of Governors for consideration has been approved by the university in accordance with Board of Governors and university regulations & policies.

DocuSigned by:

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University President

8/4/2026 | 14:31 EDT

Date



State University System 2026-2027 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund Proposal Form

University: Contributor: Amount Requested: University Contact (name, title, phone, & email):	University of South Florida Tampa General Hospital \$500,000 Usha Menon, PhD, RN, FAAN, FSBM, FAAAS Dean and Senior Associate Vice President, 813-974-9091 umenon@usf.edu
Please check the boxes below as appropriate: Is contributor a healthcare provider as defined in Section 768.38(2), Florida Statutes? ☒ Yes Nursing programs met or exceeded a first-time NCLEX passage rate of 75% for the prior year based on the 2025 Accountability Plan? ☒ Yes The funds will be used for an eligible purpose per section 1009.8962, Florida Statutes? ☒ Yes Does the proposal reach beyond the current academic year? ☐ Yes Does the proposal include non-monetary contributions, and any necessary supporting documentation to show value of a non-monetary contribution? ☐ 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, 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.

Proposal Details

Provide a detailed narrative for each section below.

- I. Use of Funds** – *Complete the spreadsheets below and provide a narrative summary of how the institution plans to use the contribution, including how the funds will be utilized to increase student enrollment and program completion. If the proposal will include non-monetary contributions, provide documentation of an external, fair-market value evaluation of the non-monetary proposal.*

Student Scholarships	\$300,000
Faculty Recruitment	
Faculty Salaries	
Staff Salaries	
Simulation Equipment/Resources	\$500,000
Clinical Preceptors	
Licensure Exam Preparation	\$200,000
Other (describe)	
Carry Forward, if any	
Total	\$1,000,000

Anticipated number of additional bachelor's-level nursing education students enrolled as a result of the funds	0
Anticipated Number of additional master's-level nursing education students enrolled as a result of the funds	0
Anticipated number of additional doctorate-level nursing education students enrolled as a result of the funds	0

Total	0
Anticipated number of bachelor's-level nursing education students who receive scholarships as a result of the funds	400
Anticipated number of master's-level nursing education students who receive scholarships as a result of the funds	520
Anticipated number of doctorate-level nursing education students who receive scholarships as a result of the funds	80
Total	1000

The University of South Florida College of Nursing will collaborate with Tampa General Hospital (TGH) to provide undergraduate and graduate nursing students with best-in-class support to prepare them to meet their penultimate goal of successful licensure and/or certification. TGH has committed \$500,000 in funding.

Student support will be enhanced by offering scholarships to:

- meet unmet financial needs (undergraduate and graduate),
- remove barriers to early licensure and certification testing due to costs associated with testing applications (undergraduate), and
- provide additional clinical opportunities in line with best practices (graduate and undergraduate)
- student success coaching tailored to individual student (undergraduate and graduate).
- Equipment and infrastructure for the new Simulation Center needed to update our simulation education in line with contemporary best practices such as virtualreality, high-fidelity manikins, etc. Tampa General Hospital has pledged funds over multiple years to help build the new state of the art Simulation Center.

II. Onboarding & Retention of Graduates - *Describe in detail and with specificity how the health care partner will onboard and retain graduates.*

TGH will support the transition to professional practice for USF College of Nursing undergraduate and advanced practice graduate students. The academic success and transition to professional practice support from TGH will touch over 1000 students across programs, many of whom also engage in the world-class clinical opportunities provided by TGH. The multiple points of contact between nursing students and the TGH organization provide the chance to begin acclimating them to TGH while still in the role of student to reduce the length of role socialization upon graduation, leading to more strategic hiring decisions and improved retention.

III. Program Expansion - *Describe in detail and with specificity how the funds will expand the institution's nursing education programs to meet local, regional, or state workforce demands. If applicable, include advanced education nursing programs and how the funds will increase the number of faculty and clinical preceptors and planned efforts to utilize the clinical placement process established in Section 14.36, Florida Statutes.*

By 2028, the USF Health College of Nursing will graduate over 450 undergraduate nurses and 260 APRNs each year. Through extensive partnerships with local and regional hospitals and health care systems, the college can provide practice-based training and confidently route new graduates to employment, fulfilling the critical need for nurses in Florida. We consistently demonstrate success in our NCLEX passage rates and for the year to date 2026 NCLEX pass rate is 96.18%.

**State University System
2026-2027 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund
Approval Certification**

Please affirm that this LINE Fund proposal being transmitted to the Board of Governors for consideration has been approved by the university in accordance with Board of Governors and university regulations & policies.

DocuSigned by:

Moey Limayem

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University President

8/4/2026 | 14:31 EDT

Date



**State University System
2026-2027 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund
Proposal Form**

University:	University of West Florida
Contributor:	Ascension Sacred Heart
Amount Requested:	\$155,240.20
University Contact (name, title, phone, & email):	Shelley Diviney, Interim Dean Usha Kundu, MD College of Health sdiviney@uwf.edu 850-462-5762
Please check the boxes below as appropriate:	
Is contributor a healthcare provider as defined in Section 768.38(2), Florida Statutes?	☒ Yes
Nursing programs met or exceeded a first-time NCLEX passage rate of 75% for the prior year based on the 2025 Accountability Plan?	☒ Yes
The funds will be used for an eligible purpose per section 1009.8962, Florida Statutes?	☒ Yes
Does the proposal reach beyond the current academic year?	☐ Yes
Does the proposal include non-monetary contributions, and any necessary supporting documentation to show value of a non-monetary contribution?	☒ 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, 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.

Proposal Details

Provide a detailed narrative for each section below.

- I. Use of Funds** – *Complete the spreadsheets below and provide a narrative summary of how the institution plans to use the contribution, including how the funds will be utilized to increase student enrollment and program completion. If the proposal will include non-monetary contributions, provide documentation of an external, fair-market value evaluation of the non-monetary proposal.*

Student Scholarships	Currently, a significant shortage of nurses exists in the State of Florida, and projections suggest that the deficit will continue to increase in size in the coming decade. In particular, the Florida panhandle is one of the areas with the most significant shortage. Geographically, the School of Nursing at the University of West Florida (UWF) is well positioned to address the need in the Florida Panhandle. The BSN program at UWF is well respected in the local and regional community and consistently produces graduates who pass the NCLEX on the first attempt. With this track record, an investment in growth and retention of the BSN program student population at UWF is highly likely to impact workforce needs in regional areas. Currently, the on-campus Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at UWF graduates approximately 120 students per year
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	who enter the workforce. However, these students are recruited from a large area surrounding the campus, potentially limiting the pipeline of students who are entering the workforce with our local healthcare organizations. Thus, having pipeline initiatives that are designed to enhance the likelihood of students being retained in the local area is critical. The funds from this proposal will be used to help start an initiative to increase nursing student enrollment and create an immersive, educational pipeline for Ascension Sacred Heart Hospital. The proposed program will facilitate 16 UWF bachelors of science in nursing students to complete the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th semesters of their education on the Ascension Sacred Heart Campus. This will include didactic education, taught onsite by UWF and also clinical and precepted experiences. These students will be immersed in the partner's culture and day to day practices, will have enhanced ability to engage with experienced nurses and hospital administrators, and will have the potential to gain part time employment at Ascension Sacred Heart while enrolled in the nursing program. \$40,000 from Ascension donation plus \$101,666.72 carry over for a total of \$141,666.72 will be provided for scholarships to nursing students who meet the criteria of the Ascension Sacred Heart gift agreement. An additional \$74,239.28 will be provided to scholarship the other nursing students to improve retention and an increase in the number of nursing graduates.
Faculty Recruitment	
Faculty Salaries	\$70,000 (50% faculty salary for Student Success Coach) Providing additional support for student success through time management, test taking skills, content tutoring specific to nursing coursework, and student competency and outcomes tracking.
Staff Salaries	
Simulation Equipment/Resources	
Clinical Preceptors	
Licensure Exam Preparation	\$10,000 will be provided for NCLEX test waiver.
Other (describe)	
Carry Forward, if any	\$101,666.72
Total	\$295,906

Anticipated number of additional bachelor's-level nursing education students enrolled as a result of the funds	16
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Anticipated Number of additional master's-level nursing education students enrolled as a result of the funds	0
Anticipated number of additional doctorate-level nursing education students enrolled as a result of the funds	0
Total	16

Anticipated number of bachelor's-level nursing education students who receive scholarships as a result of the funds	24-30
Anticipated number of master's-level nursing education students who receive scholarships as a result of the funds	0
Anticipated number of doctorate-level nursing education students who receive scholarships as a result of the funds	0
Total	24-30

II. Onboarding & Retention of Graduates - Describe in detail and with specificity how the health care partner will onboard and retain graduates.

According to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, 17.5% of RN's leave their first job in the first year of employment. Healthcare organizations incur high costs due to nursing turnover. A 2020 NSI National Health Care Retention and RN Staffing Report concluded that the average cost for turning over a bedside RN is just over \$44,000. Exit survey data from a recent study¹ suggested that only 40% of Nurses leaving employment felt they had a realistic understanding of their job before onboarding. Based upon this finding and other reports in the literature, it is evident that there is a critical period in the transition between nursing students and first-year nurses. The importance of onboarding is well understood in the Human Resource literature. According to the Society for Human Resource Management, 69% of employees are more likely to stay with an organization for three years if they have had a positive onboarding experience. Additionally, hospitals that have implemented preceptor and mentor programs in the first year of employment for new nurses have seen reductions in the turnover rate of nearly 20%. Much research has focused on the transition period after employment has already begun. While this period does warrant attention, there is an opportunity to address preparation for the transition to employment earlier when students are near completion. We are proposing to work with our healthcare Partner to provide the start of onboarding during their clinical experiences at Ascension Sacred Heart, targeting the transition to employment before the students graduate. The experience will be facilitated by the immersion with Ascension Sacred Heart on a daily basis, and greater exposure to personnel from all levels of this organization. The goal will be to provide students with a realistic understanding of the job they will have upon graduation, an understanding of the organizational culture and values, and immersive exposure to the day-to-day experiences of

nurses at Ascension Sacred Heart. We believe that through this enhanced educational experience, students will be better equipped to handle the transition to nursing practice in the Ascension Sacred Heart system and will be more likely to be retained through the critical window of early career employment.

¹Kurnat-Thoma E, Ganger M, Peterson K, Channell L. Reducing Annual Hospital and Registered Nurse Staff Turnover—A 10-Element Onboarding Program Intervention. SAGE Open Nursing. 2017;3. doi:10.1177/2377960817697712

III. Program Expansion - *Describe in detail and with specificity how the funds will expand the institution's nursing education programs to meet local, regional, or state workforce demands. If applicable, include advanced education nursing programs and how the funds will increase the number of faculty and clinical preceptors and planned efforts to utilize the clinical placement process established in Section 14.36, Florida Statutes.*

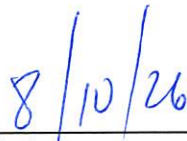
The funds for the program will be used to expand the UWF BSN program by allowing students to transition on scholarship to our partner's campus, freeing up campus resources to support additional student enrollment at UWF. Further, the enhanced exposure to experienced nurses, enhanced NCLEX preparation and financial support is anticipated to increase the program graduation rate and NCLEX success. In summary, we will produce a greater number of BSN graduates through an increased graduation rate and also enhance enrollment with additional qualified applicants through this program. Further, these students will be well prepared for a career in nursing to address workforce need overall and with our healthcare partner.

State University System
2026-2027 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund
Approval Certification

Please affirm that this LINE Fund proposal being transmitted to the Board of Governors for consideration has been approved by the university in accordance with Board of Governors and university regulations & policies.



University President



Date



**State University System
2026-2027 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund
Proposal Form**

University:	University of West Florida
Contributor:	Baptist Health Care
Amount Requested:	\$20,000
University Contact (name, title, phone, & email):	Shelley Diviney, Interim-Dean Usha Kundu, MD College of Health sdiviney@uwf.edu 850- 462-5762
Please check the boxes below as appropriate:	
Is contributor a healthcare provider as defined in Section 768.38(2), Florida Statutes?	☒ Yes
Nursing programs met or exceeded a first-time NCLEX passage rate of 75% for the prior year based on the 2025 Accountability Plan?	☒ Yes
The funds will be used for an eligible purpose per section 1009.8962, Florida Statutes?	☒ Yes
Does the proposal reach beyond the current academic year?	☐ Yes
Does the proposal include non-monetary contributions, and any necessary supporting documentation to show value of a non-monetary contribution?	☐ 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, 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.

Proposal Details

Provide a detailed narrative for each section below.

- I. Use of Funds** – *Complete the spreadsheets below and provide a narrative summary of how the institution plans to use the contribution, including how the funds will be utilized to increase student enrollment and program completion. If the proposal will include non-monetary contributions, provide documentation of an external, fair-market value evaluation of the non-monetary proposal.*

Student Scholarships	Currently, a significant shortage of nurses exists in the State of Florida, and projections suggest that the deficit will continue to increase in size in the coming decade. In particular, the Florida panhandle is one of the areas with the most significant shortage. Geographically, the School of Nursing at the University of West Florida (UWF) is well positioned to address the need in the Florida Panhandle. The BSN program at UWF is well respected in the local and regional community and consistently produces graduates who pass the NCLEX on the first attempt. With this track record, an investment in growth and retention of the BSN program student population at UWF is highly likely to impact workforce needs in regional areas. Currently, the on-campus Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at UWF graduates approximately 120 students per year
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who enter the workforce. However, these students are recruited from a large area surrounding the campus, potentially limiting the pipeline of students who are entering the workforce with our local healthcare organizations. Thus, having pipeline initiatives that are designed to enhance the likelihood of students being retained in the local area is critical. The funds from this proposal will build a pipeline program for the traditional BSN program into Baptist Health Care. This local hospital system has benefited from the LINE program's inception every year since 2022 and has an increased engagement with the UWF School of Nursing.

One of the major barriers for students in completing the program is the summer tuition costs which are often not covered by traditional financial aid opportunities. To ensure that these clinical students have the support to complete the BSN program and successfully onboard as nurses with our healthcare partner, we propose initiating a Funds to Finish (F2F) scholarship program along with the enhanced clinical experience. We will utilize the funds from this program to further enhance immersive clinical experiences for Nursing students in their final summer semesters at Baptist Health Care. These students will also benefit from additional experience to prepare them for the Baptist workforce both on the Baptist hospital campus and at the UWF main campus.

To increase the engagement of Baptist Health Care with the traditional BSN program, one clinical cohort of 10 students will be assigned to complete their summer 4th semester, clinical rotations, and precepted experience with our sponsor. By funding scholarships for students for summer terms, along with providing a stipend and NCLEX waiver, it is anticipated that all financial barriers will be removed for the students as they approach graduation. It is planned that an additional 10 senior clinical students will be able to successfully complete their program as recipients of these F2F scholarships. The students will each receive a scholarship of \$2,800 to cover tuition and fees during the period of their clinical experience. Total funds allocated for F2F scholarships are **\$28,000**. Additionally, we will use funds from this program to provide students with a fee waiver for the NCLEX examination. This will eliminate the final financial barrier to becoming a registered nurse. In addition to

	investing in the students' ability to complete the program, these students will receive an enriched clinical experience with nearly all the clinical education at Baptist Health Care locations. Baptist Health Care will meet with the students on location for special professional development and networking events with speakers on their main campus through funds provided by this program. Additionally, Baptist Health Care will be invited to come to the UWF main campus to provide additional encouragement and enrichment for students in the program, and to all UWF nursing students when on the main campus.
Faculty Recruitment	
Faculty Salaries	
Staff Salaries	
Simulation Equipment/Resources	
Clinical Preceptors	
Licensure Exam Preparation	The education of BSN students will be supported using funds from this program. Specifically, we will utilize \$12,000.00 to provide UWorld NCLEX preparation subscriptions and an NCLEX fee waiver to ensure that they have the financial resources to complete the NCLEX successfully. Currently, students in the program often struggle to deal with the additional costs that nursing students frequently incur for NCLEX preparation. With additional support, these students will have opportunities to engage with Baptist Health Care to enhance their understanding of our partners' organizational culture and practices. They will also be able to engage in additional training and experience developed in consultation with our partner to enhance their ability to be onboarded after graduation. Targeting financial aid to students as a reward for their success is known to increase graduation rates and students entering into clinicals with improved learning opportunities. Additionally, we will use funds from this program to provide students with a fee waiver for the NCLEX examination. This will eliminate the final financial barrier to becoming a registered nurse. In addition to investing in the students' ability to complete the program, these students will receive an enriched clinical experience with nearly all the clinical education at Baptist Health Care locations.
Other (describe)	
Carry Forward, if any	0
Total	\$40,000

Anticipated number of additional bachelor's-level nursing education students enrolled as a result of the funds	10
Anticipated Number of additional master's-level nursing education students enrolled as a result of the funds	0
Anticipated number of additional doctorate-level nursing education students enrolled as a result of the funds	0
Total	10

Anticipated number of bachelor's-level nursing education students who receive scholarships as a result of the funds	10
Anticipated number of master's-level nursing education students who receive scholarships as a result of the funds	0
Anticipated number of doctorate-level nursing education students who receive scholarships as a result of the funds	0
Total	10

II. Onboarding & Retention of Graduates - Describe in detail and with specificity how the health care partner will onboard and retain graduates.

According to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, 17.5% of RN's leave their first job in the first year of employment. Healthcare organizations incur high costs due to nursing turnover. A 2020 NSI National Health Care Retention and RN Staffing Report concluded that the average cost for turning over a bedside RN is just over \$44,000. Exit survey data from a recent study¹ suggested that only 40% of Nurses leaving employment felt they had a realistic understanding of their job before onboarding. Based upon this finding and other reports in the literature, it is evident that there is a critical period in the transition between nursing students and first-year nurses. The importance of onboarding is well understood in the Human Resource literature. According to the Society for Human Resource Management, 69% of employees are more likely to stay with an organization for three years if they have had a positive onboarding experience. Additionally, hospitals that have implemented preceptor and mentor programs in the first year of employment for new nurses have seen reductions in the turnover rate of nearly 20%. Much research has focused on the transition period after employment has already begun. While this period does warrant attention, there is an opportunity to address preparation for the transition to employment earlier when students are near completion. We are proposing to work with our healthcare Partner to provide the start of onboarding during their clinical experiences at Baptist Healthcare, targeting the transition to employment before the students graduate. The experience will be facilitated by the professional development and networking opportunities with Baptist Health Care. The goal will be to provide students with a realistic understanding of the job they will have upon graduation, an

understanding of the organizational culture and values, and immersive exposure to the day-to-day experiences of nurses at Baptist Health Care locations. We believe that through this enhanced clinical experience, students will be better equipped to handle the transition to nursing practice in the Baptist Health Care system and will be more likely to be retained through the critical window of early career employment.

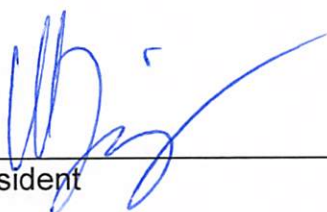
¹Kurnat-Thoma E, Ganger M, Peterson K, Channell L. Reducing Annual Hospital and Registered Nurse Staff Turnover—A 10-Element Onboarding Program Intervention. SAGE Open Nursing. 2017;3. doi:10.1177/2377960817697712 Page 4 of

III. Program Expansion - *Describe in detail and with specificity how the funds will expand the institution's nursing education programs to meet local, regional, or state workforce demands. If applicable, include advanced education nursing programs and how the funds will increase the number of faculty and clinical preceptors and planned efforts to utilize the clinical placement process established in Section 14.36, Florida Statutes.*

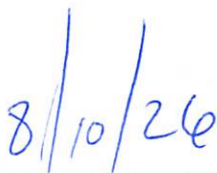
The funds for the program will be used to expand the UWF BSN program by addressing the end of the student lifecycle. Enhancing graduation rate will produce more RN's to fulfill the local workforce needs. Additionally, having students supported on scholarships will help attract more students to consider the UWF Nursing program. Over time this will help to enhance the number of students applying for the UWF BSN program, which is incredibly important in a time where nursing school applications are on the decline. In summary, we will produce a greater number of BSN graduates through an increased graduation rate. The UWF BSN program has consistently produced very high NCLEX pass rates. Therefore, as the pipeline of new BSN students is strengthened, the educational preparation of the students will ensure that these retained students will pass the NCLEX and become an RN. Further, these students will be well prepared for a career in nursing to address workforce need overall and with our healthcare partner.

State University System
2026-2027 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund
Approval Certification

Please affirm that this LINE Fund proposal being transmitted to the Board of Governors for consideration has been approved by the university in accordance with Board of Governors and university regulations & policies.



University President



Date



**State University System
2026-2027 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund
Proposal Form**

University:	University of West Florida
Contributor:	Santa Rosa Medical Center
Amount Requested:	\$104,175.72
University Contact (name, title, phone, & email):	Shelley Diviney, Interim-Dean Usha Kundu MD College of Health 850-462-5762 sdiviney@uwf.edu
Please check the boxes below as appropriate:	
Is contributor a healthcare provider as defined in Section 768.38(2), Florida Statutes?	☒ Yes
Nursing programs met or exceeded a first-time NCLEX passage rate of 75% for the prior year based on the 2025 Accountability Plan?	☒ Yes
The funds will be used for an eligible purpose per section 1009.8962, Florida Statutes?	☒ Yes
Does the proposal reach beyond the current academic year?	☐ Yes
Does the proposal include non-monetary contributions, and any necessary supporting documentation to show value of a non-monetary contribution?	☒ 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, 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.

Proposal Details

Provide a detailed narrative for each section below.

- I. Use of Funds** – *Complete the spreadsheets below and provide a narrative summary of how the institution plans to use the contribution, including how the funds will be utilized to increase student enrollment and program completion. If the proposal will include non-monetary contributions, provide documentation of an external, fair-market value evaluation of the non-monetary proposal.*

Student Scholarships	Currently, a significant shortage of nurses exists in the State of Florida, and projections suggest that the deficit will continue to increase in size in the coming decade. In particular, the Florida panhandle is one of the areas with the most significant shortage. Geographically, the School of Nursing at the University of West Florida (UWF) is well positioned to address the need in the Florida Panhandle. The Entry Into Practice (Direct Entry) Master of Science in Nursing (DEMSN) program at UWF is well respected in the local and regional community and consistently produces graduates who pass the NCLEX on the first attempt. With this track record, an investment in growth and retention of the DEMSN program student population at UWF is highly likely to impact workforce needs in regional areas. Currently, the on-campus Bachelor of Science in
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Nursing program at UWF graduates approximately 120 students per year who enter the workforce. However, the vast majority of these students will be employed within Escambia County. This limits the number of new nurses that are working in Santa Rosa County, an area of increasing population density and need. The funds from this proposal will build a pipeline program for the DEMSN program into Santa Rosa Medical Center. This 129 bed hospital benefitted from the LINE program since its inception in 2022, and has an increased engagement with the UWF School of Nursing. We will utilize the funds from this program to further enhance immersive clinical experiences for Nursing students in their final two semesters at Santa Rosa Medical Center. These students will also benefit from an enhanced precepted experience in the final semester through funds provided by this program. To increase the engagement of Santa Rosa Medical Center (SRMC) with the DEMSN program, all clinical students will receive scholarships to cover tuition during their 5th semester. The education of all 5th semester DEMSN students will be supported using funds from the LINE match. Specifically, we will utilize \$200 per student to provide an NCLEX fee waiver to ensure that they have enough financial support to spend more time with our healthcare partner. Currently students in the program often have to work to meet their financial needs. With additional support, these students will have opportunities to engage with Santa Rosa Medical Center to enhance their understanding of our partner's organizational culture and practices. They will also be able to engage in additional training and experience developed in consultation with our partner to enhance their ability to be onboarded after graduation. To ensure that these clinical students have the support to complete the DEMSN program and successfully onboard as nurses with our healthcare partner, we propose a continuation of the Funds to Finish (F2F) scholarship program along with the enhanced clinical experience. Targeting financial aid to students as a reward for their success is known to increase graduation rates, and students entering into clinicals have demonstrated their success by completing most of the DEMSN program. By funding scholarships and NCLEX waivers, it is anticipated that all financial barriers will be removed for the students

	as they approach graduation. It is planned that 20 students will be recipients of these F2F scholarships. Each student will receive a scholarship to cover tuition and fees during the period of their clinical experience. Total funds allocated for F2F scholarships are \$131,975.72 . Additionally, we will use funds from this program to provide students with a fee waiver for the NCLEX examination. This will eliminate the final financial barrier to becoming a registered nurse.	
Faculty Recruitment		
Faculty Salaries		
Staff Salaries		
Simulation Equipment/Resources		
Clinical Preceptors		
Licensure Exam Preparation	We will use funds (\$10,000) from this program to provide students with a fee waiver for the NCLEX examination. This will eliminate the final financial barrier to becoming a registered nurse.	
Other (describe)		
Carry Forward, if any	0	
Total	\$141,975.72	
Anticipated number of additional bachelor's-level nursing education students enrolled as a result of the funds		0
Anticipated Number of additional master's-level nursing education students enrolled as a result of the funds		20
Anticipated number of additional doctorate-level nursing education students enrolled as a result of the funds		0
Total		20

Anticipated number of bachelor's-level nursing education students who receive scholarships as a result of the funds	0
Anticipated number of master's-level nursing education students who receive scholarships as a result of the funds	20
Anticipated number of doctorate-level nursing education students who receive scholarships as a result of the funds	0
Total	20

II. Onboarding & Retention of Graduates - Describe in detail and with specificity how the health care partner will onboard and retain graduates.

According to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, 17.5% of RN's leave their first job in the first year of employment. Healthcare organizations incur high costs due to nursing turnover. A 2020 NSI National Health Care Retention and RN Staffing Report concluded that the average cost for turning over a bedside RN is just over \$44,000. Exit survey data from a recent study¹ suggested that only 40% of

Nurses leaving employment felt they had a realistic understanding of their job before onboarding. Based upon this finding and other reports in the literature, it is evident that there is a critical period in the transition between nursing students and first-year nurses. The importance of onboarding is well understood in the Human Resource literature. According to the Society for Human Resource Management, 69% of employees are more likely to stay with an organization for three years if they have had a positive onboarding experience. Additionally, hospitals that have implemented preceptor and mentor programs in the first year of employment for new nurses have seen reductions in the turnover rate of nearly 20%. Much research has focused on the transition period after employment has already begun. While this period does warrant attention, there is an opportunity to address preparation for the transition to employment earlier when students are near completion. We are proposing to work with our healthcare Partner to provide the start of onboarding during their clinical experiences in the Santa Rosa Medical Center, targeting the transition to employment before the students graduate. The experience will be facilitated by the incentivized preceptors and additional engagements with Santa Rosa Medical Center. The goal will be to provide students with a realistic understanding of the job they will have upon graduation, an understanding of the organizational culture and values, and immersive exposure to the day-to-day experiences of nurses at Santa Rosa Medical Center locations. We believe that through this enhanced clinical experience, students will be better equipped to handle the transition to nursing practice in the Santa Rosa Medical Center system and will be more likely to be retained through the critical window of early career employment.

¹Kurnat-Thoma E, Ganger M, Peterson K, Channell L. Reducing Annual Hospital and Registered Nurse Staff Turnover—A 10-Element Onboarding Program Intervention. SAGE Open Nursing. 2017;3. doi:10.1177/2377960817697712

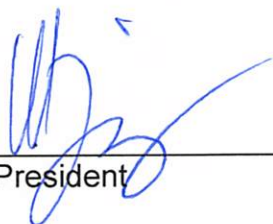
III. Program Expansion - *Describe in detail and with specificity how the funds will expand the institution's nursing education programs to meet local, regional, or state workforce demands. If applicable, include advanced education nursing programs and how the funds will increase the number of faculty and clinical preceptors and planned efforts to utilize the clinical placement process established in Section 14.36, Florida Statutes.*

The funds for the program will be used to expand the UWF DEMSN program by addressing the end of the student lifecycle. Enhancing graduation rate will produce more RN's to fulfill the local workforce needs. Additionally, expanding the presence with clinical locations outside of Escambia county will attract new students from adjoining areas into the nursing programs. Over time this will help to enhance the number of students applying for the UWF DEMSN program,

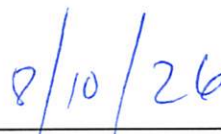
which is incredibly important in a time where nursing school applications are on the decline. In summary, we will produce a greater number of DEMSN graduates through an increased graduation rate. The UWF DEMSN program has consistently produced very high NCLEX pass rates. Therefore, as the pipeline of new DEMSN students is strengthened, the educational preparation of the students will ensure that these retained students will pass the NCLEX and become an RN. Further, these students will be well prepared for a career in nursing to address workforce needs overall and with our healthcare partner, Santa Rosa Medical Center.

State University System
2026-2027 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund
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University President



Date