
President's High Growth Job Training Initiative
*Three-Year, Hospital-Based Nursing Degree
at a Rural Community Hospital*



Grantee: Berger Health System

Grant Amount: \$200,000

Key Partners: Ohio University

Leveraged Amount: \$405,939 in cash contributions from Berger Health System

Location of Grant Activities Pickaway County and adjacent counties and small cities in Ohio

Challenge: The acute care sector in rural areas experiences nursing shortages due to up-front costs for education and books, lack of role models, and a lack of knowledge of career opportunities. Hence, rural citizens often do not take advantage of the opportunity to attain the professional goal of becoming a registered nurse. There is also a lack of capacity at the local university to educate all qualified nursing school applicants.

Addressing the Challenge: With its \$200,000 grant, the Berger Health System and Ohio University will meet the needs of the rural community hospital by holding all classes and clinical rotations at the Berger Hospital facilities for the three-year, university-based Associate Degree nursing program. Berger Health System agreed to sponsor one instructor, provide space, and accept students into clinical rotations. Ohio University agreed to supply the curriculum, faculty, and degrees.

Projected Outcomes:

- 30 incumbent employees and non-traditional students will enroll in credentialed program;
- Progress and results will be documented so that the program can serve as a framework for other rural communities and hospitals.

