Project Abstract

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Project Title: Samford University Nurse Anesthesia Program Traineeship
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Overview of Project: The Master of Science in Nursing degree program prepares advanced practice nurses as nurse anesthetists. Goals of the nurse anesthesia program are to prepare nurse anesthetists with excellent clinical skills, an emphasis on cultural and spiritual competence, and a focus on care needs of rural and underserved health populations, including the young, old, and those with disabilities. The curriculum is a comprehensive program of study that addresses the full anesthesia scope of practice, based on professional organizational standards and current state-of-the-art practice models. Intercultural understanding is woven throughout the program curriculum and clinical experiences.

Project Objectives: Primary outcomes of the project are to: (1) Prepare students who master skills that allow them to practice at the highest level for all patient groups, but especially rural and medically underserved patients in Alabama and the southeast **(Healthy People 2020 Goals 1 & 2)**; 2) Increase the diversity of the student body; and 3) Increase the number of program graduates serving in rural and underserved areas of Alabama and the southeast **(Healthy People 2020 Goals 1 & 2)**. The program goals are consonant with the 2011 **BHPr Diversity Guiding Principles**.

Project Processes: The traineeship funds have provided Samford nurse anesthesia students with necessary funds to help them complete their education and meet their career goals. Because Samford students are not able to work during the full-time program, this funding is critical to their success. The Samford program is housed within a private university, and so the extra funding has allowed the program to stay competitive with other programs across the country. Students who receive funding must be in good-standing with the program and university and with full-time status. The program has made strong efforts to increase enrollment of ethnically and racially diverse students, as well as those students from disadvantaged backgrounds. The program made great strides towards these efforts. In the recently admitted class, over 70% of students are from ethnically diverse and/or disadvantaged backgrounds. Traineeship support will have a tremendous impact on these disadvantaged students.

The Samford University IVMSON Nurse Anesthesia program is fully accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs (COA). All graduates will be eligible to sit for the national certification examination from the AANA Council on Certification. Based on the School of Nursing's Systematic Plan for Evaluation and HRSA requirements, an inclusive evaluation plan will measure the effectiveness of the project.