

BOARD ACTION

Policy:	NA
Title:	Support of the Implementation of an ADN to BSN Degree
<p>Edison State Community College (ESCC) decided to pursue the RN-BSN program in response to concerns voiced by the community and healthcare organizations in the area. At a presentation made by Premier Health, data was shared indicating the critical demand for registered nurses and, in addition, the need for BSN-prepared nurses. College leadership realized they could help meet these needs by adding more faculty and utilizing the resources already in place at a lower cost than four-year colleges and universities.</p> <p>According to data collected by the Ohio Board of Nursing and reported in their “2021 Ohio Workforce Data Summary Report,” only 60% of registered nurses respondents hold a baccalaureate degree or higher. Forty percent of registered nurses obtained their initial education in an ADN program, while 38% did so through a BSN program. Additionally, of 79,379 respondents, only 10% indicated they are currently enrolled in a BSN program, while 23% indicated they plan to obtain their BSN sometime in the next ten years.</p> <p>Closing the gap for BSN-prepared nurses is an important endeavor. The importance and value of registered nurses attaining the BSN degree has long been recognized by healthcare and professional organizations. However, achieving this goal has generally challenged nurses living in more rural areas. Economic disadvantages and issues related to access to colleges and universities (typically in larger cities) contribute to fewer BSN-prepared nurses in rural areas. A nationwide study found that urban nurses were more likely to hold a BSN degree (57.9%) than rural nurses (46.1%). (Odahowski C.L., Crouch E.L., Zahnd W.E., Probst J.C., McKinney S.H., & Abshire D.A., 2020). Providing ESCC graduates the opportunity to obtain the BSN locally will help increase the percentage of BSN-prepared nurses in our more rural area, which is important for the health of our population.</p> <p>ESCC is particularly well-suited to prepare graduates at the BSN level. ESCC has a strong history of providing students with an excellent education and being committed to meeting the community's needs. Despite numerous RN-BSN completion programs available in Ohio, a gap remains between the number of BSN-prepared registered nurses and the number desired/needed by healthcare organizations. ESCC can offer an option that makes transitioning from the ADN to the BSN seamless, comfortable, and affordable. Offering an RN-BSN program to ESCC graduates would enable them to matriculate to the BSN degree seamlessly, in a comfortable and familiar environment, at a price they already know they can afford. Upon initial entry into the ESCC ADN program, students would know they have a clear avenue to the BSN degree without worrying about transferring coursework and the fear of needing to repeat courses or pay higher tuition rates. Offering the RN-BSN at a student’s initial school would expedite the pathway to the BSN. Offering the RN-BSN program can also entice local high school students who are interested in pursuing the baccalaureate degree an option to do so at a location close to home.</p>	
Impact on Student Success:	Creates a seamless pathway for an ADN to achieve a BSN degree and increase their earning power, all at an affordable tuition rate.
Impact on Budget:	The ADN to BSN will create an increase in tuition dollars and impact SSI funding positively. There will be a need for salary dollars for a director and faculty to support the program as it grows.

Recommendation: Approve

Does this replace an existing policy? No

Approved: YES / NO

Signature:  , Chairman

Date: 09-27-23