

## FINDINGS, RECOMMENDATIONS, and CONCLUSIONS

*The findings support the need for an associate degree nursing program at Northwestern Connecticut Community College.*

- Population of Litchfield County is aging;
- Demand for health care services will continue to increase;
- High quality healthcare will need to be provided;
- Supply of registered nurses will not meet the projected demand;
- Current schools of nursing in Connecticut are unable to meet the projected need for registered nurse;
- Perspective students favor a nursing program close to home versus traveling outside Litchfield County to obtain a nursing education;
- Qualified applicants exceed the capacity of current Connecticut schools of nursing; and
- Citizens of Litchfield County are committed to supporting a nursing program.

*The findings demonstrate four challenges to establishing an associate degree program at Northwestern Community College.*

- Funding for sufficient start-up and sustainable monies for College infrastructure and learning resources.
- Nursing faculty qualified academically and experientially to teach, particularly clinical faculty.
- Clinical placement sites availability and ability to provide appropriate types of clinical learning experiences.
- Employment opportunities for graduates of the nursing program.

If these four challenges can be met it appears feasible to establish an associate degree nursing program as part of the CT-CCNP program at Northwestern Connecticut Community College. The following section presents alternative approaches for the development of the nursing program.

*If the decision is for Northwestern Connecticut Community College to offer the associate degree nursing program the following considerations would need to be well thought-out.*

- Implementation of the already established CT-CCNP program philosophy and outcomes, curriculum, admissions processes, and student policies;
- Achievement of approval and accreditation status from four external bodies;
- Consideration of a less traditional program design, such as offering an evening program or a distance education program;

- Availability of human resources;
- Availability of fiscal resources; and
- Development of an articulation agreement with a baccalaureate program.

*If the decision is for Northwestern Connecticut Community College to offer the associate degree nursing through a partnership the following considerations would need to be well thought-out.*

- Partnership with another Community College
  - Become a satellite campus for one of the five colleges offering the CT-CCNP program; or
  - Offer the first year of the nursing program at one of the five colleges and the second year of the program at NCCC.
- Partnership with an area Hospital
  - Implement a joint appointment model; and/or
  - Develop a collaborative agreement for the sharing of space and facilitates