

## Addressing Issues Affecting Nursing in Northeast Ohio

NEONI has been instrumental in addressing and solving healthcare workforce problems in Northeast Ohio since 2000. **NEONI staff spends nearly 460 hours annually** representing its membership by participating in committees, monitoring legislation and communicating directly with legislators on issues directly affecting nursing in Northeast Ohio.

NEONI is recognized throughout the state as a founding partner of the Ohio Network for Nursing Workforce (ONNW), which achieved membership in the national Forum for State Nursing Workforce Centers.

NEONI staff also represents its membership in other local and statewide efforts such as:

- Healthcare Sector Advisory Council of the Cleveland/Cuyahoga County Workforce Investment Board
- Ohio Skills Bank
- Ohio Hospital Association Workforce Committee
- Ohio Workforce Coalition Steering Committee
- A2 State Workforce Forum
- Behavioral Health RoundTable
- Deans' Roundtable Faculty Initiative

## Securing Over \$1 Million to Support Northeast Ohio Nursing Initiatives

Since its inception in 2000, The Center for Health Affairs workforce initiative, NEONI, has secured more than \$1 million to support nursing initiatives in Northeast Ohio. Of that **\$1 million, only 3.6 percent came from NEONI membership dues**. Through grant funds, fundraisers and conferences, NEONI has developed, implemented and sustained nursing workforce initiatives across 12 counties in Northeast Ohio. Over the past 10 years, these initiatives have been accomplished by NEONI, with the critical support of its members:

- **Healthcare Career Shadowing**  
More than 4,000 students, from over 138 high schools have shadowed healthcare professionals in more than 30 local hospitals. Allows high school students the opportunity to interact with healthcare professionals in a real-work environment and to explore the nursing and allied health professions.
- **StudentMAX™**  
Placed more than 39,000 students in clinicals from more than 30 nursing school programs. Increases clinical capacity, increases access to new clinical sites, and allows greater ease in matching nursing students with clinical placements.
- **Northeast Ohio Nursing Forecast**  
Over \$28,000 was contributed by The Center to conduct and provide a series of supply and demand studies for NEONI's membership. Forecasts supply and demand for the Northeast Ohio nursing workforce, through an interactive model, based on demographic, economic and other changes that may occur.
- **Healthcare Leadership Course**  
More than 20 leaders completed the course. Educates and develops leaders in the healthcare industry through an online course and one-on-one coaching from an experienced healthcare manager.



NEONI's strength lies in its ability to bring nursing leaders, clinical agencies, educators and organizations together to work collaboratively to address and seek solutions for nursing workforce issues in Northeast Ohio.

NEONI acts as a liaison addressing schools' and clinical agencies' regional needs.

NEONI's Annual Fall Conferences are centered around relevant nursing topics. Speakers are highly educated and known nationally for their nursing expertise. **NEONI will host its 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Conference in Fall 2011.**

NEONI's Legislative Forums inform attendees on policy issues affecting healthcare employees.

## NEONI Grants (over \$760,000)

### NEONI & Healthcare Shadowing

- Akron Community Foundation
- Fred A. Lennon Charitable Trust
- The George Gund Foundation
- United Way Services

### StudentMAX™ Pilot - Nursing

- The Abington Foundation
- The Cleveland Foundation
- The Ginn Foundation
- The Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation

## Partnership Grants (over \$220,000)

### Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Partners Investing in Nursing

- ME & FJ Callahan Foundation
- The Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

### Healthcare Leadership Course

- Lorain County Community College  
Foundation

### StudentMAX™ Pilot - Allied Health

- Ohio Board of Regents/Ohio Skills Bank

In addition to these grant funds, The Center for Health Affairs supplements many needed expenses to support these initiatives including meeting, catering, staffing, printing and marketing expenses.



NEONI staff spends a considerable amount of hours annually to support Northeast Ohio nursing workforce initiatives. NEONI's Healthcare Career Shadowing Manager dedicates **more than 550 hours annually** coordinating shadowing experiences throughout Northeast Ohio, including Akron and Youngstown.

## Additional NEONI Initiatives Implemented Since 2000

### Adult Career Path

Allowed adults interested in a healthcare career to shadow a healthcare professional.

### The Speakers Bureau

Scheduled educational opportunities for NEONI members and staff to talk to middle and high schools about health career opportunities.

### BluePrint for Success

Provided nursing students with a variety of Web-based tools, information and resources intended to help them achieve academic success.

### Emergency Student Nurse Loan Program

Allowed nursing students to borrow up to \$300 for any emergency financial need. The loan needed to be repaid six months from the student's graduation date. [A total of \\$4,275 has been given to nursing students since its inception in 2006.](#)

For more information about The Center for Health Affairs workforce initiative, NEONI, please contact:

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