Innovation

*An innovation indicates: a new idea or method; doing something altogether different; something that may be new to the particular nursing program or may be new to nursing education in general; a response to the needs of the community, trends in society, and the explosion of knowledge

1. **Program Name:** The University of Texas at Arlington College of Nursing Professional Pathways to Nursing program
2. **Type of Nursing Program:** Undergraduate RN to BSN
3. **Narrative Description:**

   The UT Arlington Professional Pathways to Nursing program was created as a response to a 2010 report from the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation that said 80% of nurses in the U.S. should hold a bachelor’s degree by 2020.

   Upon entry to the community college nursing program, students are provided course maps modeled to maximize course selection that allows seamless application and entry into UT Arlington’s RN to BSN program. Through the Pathways program, students establish a relationship with UT Arlington while still in community college. By following the courses outlined, students will be able to begin UT Arlington’s online RN to BSN program about 60 days after graduation from participating community colleges. As of Fall 2012, there are 19 community college partners.

   Three Dallas County Community College District campuses: El Centro, Brookhaven and Mountain View Colleges. Five Lone Star College System campuses (Houston). Tarrant County College, Alvin Community College, Austin Community College, Brazosport, College of the Mainland, Lee College, Trinity Valley Community College, Grayson County College (Denison), Navarro College (Corsicana), Weatherford College, Baptist Health System School of Health Professions (San Antonio).

4. **Effectiveness/Successes of the Innovations:**

   The Pathways program builds an early relationship with the UT Arlington College of Nursing that will direct the student into continuing the momentum into a BSN program immediately upon graduation.

   Multiple start dates (8 per year) offered in the Academic Partnerships online RN to BSN program and the flexibility offered the student in an online program.

   **Approximate Cost of implementing and maintaining partnership:** N/A
   **Grant monies used:** None
   **Expected benefits from partnership:** Accessible, affordable program for ADN-prepared RNs to efficiently access a BSN-completion program resulting in an increased number of BSN prepared nurses.

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Innovations: Partnerships with other nursing programs and Articulation