

The Bridges to the Doctorate Program

A DUSON-WSSU Collaborative Partnership



The Duke University School of Nursing (DUSON) and Winston-Salem State University (WSSU) have begun a 5-year partnership to create *The Bridges to the Doctorate Program*. Funded by the National Institutes of Health, the goal of the collaboration is to increase the number of underrepresented minority nurses from WSSU's MSN program who are prepared for competitive and seamless transition to PhD programs in nursing and other related biomedical/behavioral science disciplines at Duke University.



On Tuesday, October 23, 2012 project team members from both institutions met at WSSU to commence planning, establish executive committee processes, and align partnering expectations, agreements and protocols.

WSSU, a Historically Black College and University, will partner with DUSON to implement a 17-credit hour Research Honors Track within WSSU's MSN program. It will consist of early and ongoing mentored research experiences, new and strengthened research courses, a yearlong integrated intensive mentored research experience — including an intensive eight-week summer research internships at Duke University — an multiple mentoring and enhancement experiences. Ultimately the goal of *The Bridges to the Doctorate Program* is for a least four students to matriculate in Duke PhD programs in nursing and other related disciplines during the initial five years of funding.



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