



State University System 2025-2026 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund Proposal Form

University:	Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University
Healthcare Partner:	HCA Healthcare
Date Proposal Approved by University Board of Trustees:	x/xx/xxxx
Amount Requested:	\$375,000
University Contact (name, title, phone, & email):	Shannon B. Smith, Dean 850-599-3017 Shannon.smith@famu.edu
Please check the boxes below as appropriate:	<i>All boxes must be checked in order to be eligible to participate.</i>
Healthcare partner making contribution is located in and licensed to operate in Florida?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
Healthcare partner making contribution is a healthcare provider as defined in Section 768.38(2), Florida Statutes?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
Nursing programs met or exceeded a first-time NCLEX passage rate of 75% for the prior year based on the 2025 Accountability Plan?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
The funds will be used for an eligible purpose per section 1009.8962, Florida Statutes?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes

Background

The LINE Fund is intended to incentivize collaboration between nursing education programs and healthcare partners and to meet local, regional, and state workforce demand by recruiting faculty and clinical preceptors, increasing the capacity of high-quality nursing education programs, and increasing the number of nursing education program graduates who are prepared to enter the workforce. Subject to available funds, for every dollar contributed to an institution by a healthcare partner, the fund shall provide a dollar-for-dollar match to the participating institution for approved proposals.

Funds may be used for student scholarships, recruitment of additional faculty, equipment, and simulation centers to advance high-quality nursing education programs throughout the state. Funds may not be used for the construction of new buildings. To participate, an institution must submit a timely and complete proposal to the Board of Governors for consideration. For more details, see Board of Governors [Regulation 8.008 - Nursing Education](#).

Proposals must be submitted with a total of no more than three pages of narrative for the following sections.

Proposal Details

Provide a detailed narrative for each section below.

I. Use of Funds - *Describe in detail and with specificity how the institution plans to use the funds, including how the funds will be utilized to increase student enrollment and program completion.*

Florida A&M University (FAMU) School of Nursing is pleased to submit this proposal for the 2025–2026 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund, in continued partnership with HCA Florida Healthcare (HCA). Building on the success of our previous initiatives, we are requesting a matching amount of **\$375,000**, aligned with HCA’s ongoing philanthropic commitment to nursing education at FAMU. This proposal reflects the next phase of our strategic collaboration, designed to strengthen the nursing workforce pipeline through targeted investments in student scholarships, faculty development, leadership training, and clinical placement expansion.

The proposed use of funds remains consistent with the priorities outlined in our 2024–2025 submission, with enhancements based on program outcomes and evolving workforce needs. Specifically, the funds will support the continued growth of the **NURSE Scholars Program**, which has proven effective in increasing student retention, academic success, and leadership development. Additionally, we will expand faculty recruitment and development efforts to ensure high-quality instruction and mentorship, while deepening our clinical training partnership with HCA to provide robust onboarding and retention pathways for graduates.

The proposed use of funds is as follows:

\$300,000 – Student Scholarships

Scholarships will be awarded to students with demonstrated financial need. These awards will reduce financial barriers, increase enrollment, and improve retention and graduation rates. By alleviating economic stress, students can focus on academic success and timely program completion.

\$55,000 – Faculty Support & Development

Of this amount, \$20,000 will fund faculty mentorship within the NURSE Scholars Program, ensuring students receive personalized academic and professional guidance. The remaining \$25,000 will support faculty development through workshops and certifications in NCLEX-style test writing, simulation-based instruction, and evidence-based teaching strategies. These efforts will enhance instructional quality and student outcomes.

\$20,000 – Student Leadership Development

Funds will support student participation in the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) Annual Conference. This experience fosters leadership, professional networking, and exposure to national nursing trends, preparing students for future roles in healthcare leadership.

II. Onboarding & Retention of Graduates - *Describe in detail and with specificity how the health care partner will onboard and retain graduates.*

HCA FLorida Healthcare (HCA) has committed to a comprehensive onboarding and retention program for nursing graduates who complete their studies at FAMU and are hired by HCA. By linking the scholarship recipients to the HCA network, we aim to improve graduate retention within the nursing workforce, with a specific focus on retaining FAMU graduates within the HCA network.

Onboarding. Scholarship recipients will undergo comprehensive onboarding at HCA's structured orientation program, designed to provide a smooth transition from academia to the workforce. This onboarding process includes one-on-one mentorship with experienced nurses, hands-on skill-building workshops, and simulated clinical training. These efforts aim to boost graduates' confidence and ensure they are well-prepared for the demands of bedside nursing and leadership roles in patient care.

Retention. FAMU School of Nursing is deeply committed to improving student retention through a multifaceted approach that combines financial support, mentoring, and leadership experiences. These efforts are designed to address the key barriers that nursing students face, especially those from underrepresented or disadvantaged backgrounds.

Financial Support. One of the most significant barriers to retention in nursing programs is financial strain. The \$300,000 in scholarships provided through this proposal will help reduce the financial burden on students, allowing them to focus on their studies without the distraction of economic hardship. By prioritizing scholarships for students with financial need, FAMU aims to increase retention by enabling these students to continue their education uninterrupted. This financial support will not only help students remain in the program but also empower them to pursue their academic goals with greater confidence and stability.

Mentoring Program. The mentoring component of the NURSE Scholars Program will play a critical role in student retention. Dedicated faculty members will provide personalized support to each student, helping them navigate academic challenges, balance personal and professional responsibilities, and develop a clear path to graduation. Mentorship fosters a sense of belonging and engagement, which is essential for retaining students who may feel isolated or overwhelmed. By establishing close relationships with experienced faculty, students will have a reliable source of guidance and encouragement throughout their academic journey. Faculty mentors will help students set goals, develop time management skills, and address any issues that may arise during their studies, ensuring that they remain on track for success.

Leadership Development. Leadership experiences are another crucial element in retaining students. By offering opportunities for students to

attend conferences like the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) Annual Conference, FAMU will cultivate leadership skills and provide exposure to the broader nursing community. Students who engage in leadership activities often demonstrate higher levels of academic success and personal satisfaction. These experiences help students build professional networks, gain confidence in their abilities, and develop a clear vision for their future careers. Leadership opportunities create a sense of purpose and ambition that motivates students to complete their nursing education and pursue long-term success in the field.

Clinical Rotations for Scholarship Students

As part of this collaboration, students receiving scholarships through the NURSE Scholars Program will have the opportunity to complete clinical rotations at HCA. These rotations will expose students to a variety of clinical environments, providing them with critical hands-on experience and ensuring they are well-prepared for employment upon graduation. The partnership will also enhance students' clinical skills and knowledge, giving them direct exposure to exemplary nursing experiences.

III. Program Expansion - *Describe in detail and with specificity how the funds will expand the institution's nursing education programs to meet local, regional, or state workforce demands. If applicable, include advanced education nursing programs and how the funds will increase the number of faculty and clinical preceptors and planned efforts to utilize the clinical placement process established in Section 14.36, Florida Statutes.*

The LINE Fund match will enable FAMU School of Nursing to expand its capacity to meet regional and statewide nursing workforce demands through the following strategies:

Increased Enrollment and Retention

Scholarships will reduce financial barriers, enabling more students to enroll and persist through graduation. This directly supports the state's goal of increasing the number of practice-ready nursing graduates.

Faculty Recruitment and Development

Additional faculty hires will allow FAMU to offer more course sections and clinical placements. Faculty development initiatives will ensure high-quality instruction and mentorship, contributing to improved NCLEX pass rates and student success.

Leadership and Professional Development

By supporting student participation in national conferences, the program cultivates leadership skills and professional engagement, preparing graduates to assume leadership roles in healthcare settings.

Clinical Placement Expansion

FAMU will continue to leverage its partnership with HCA and other healthcare providers to secure clinical placements. These efforts align with Section 14.36, Florida Statutes, and ensure that all students receive the hands-on training necessary for licensure and practice.