

# Rural Nursing Education Program (RNEP)

Academic Partner Webinar  
February 20, 2026



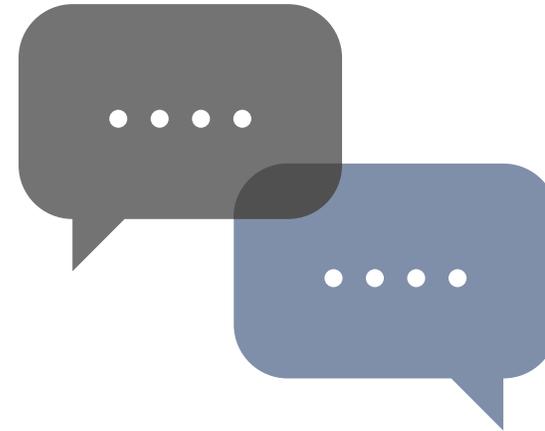
*RNEP-Revolutionizing Rural Nursing Education in Washington State*



# Welcome!

In the chat, please add your:

- Name
- Title
- Organization
- Email address



# Agenda

**Introductions**

**Overview of RNEP**

**Benefits of RNEP Partnership**

**Conditions of Participation**

**Timeline**

**How to Apply**

**Q&A**

# RNEP Development Team



Kelly Shaw, MPH  
Department of  
Health  
RNEP Director  
[kelly.shaw@doh.wa.gov](mailto:kelly.shaw@doh.wa.gov)



Brenda Senger, PhD,  
RN  
RNEP Nurse  
Consultant  
[sengerb@gonzaga.edu](mailto:sengerb@gonzaga.edu)



Kristen Kienzle  
RNEP Administrative  
Assistant  
[kristen.kienzle@doh.wa.gov](mailto:kristen.kienzle@doh.wa.gov)



Theresa Bowden DNP,  
RN  
RNEP Student Support  
[theresa.bowden@wsu.edu](mailto:theresa.bowden@wsu.edu)

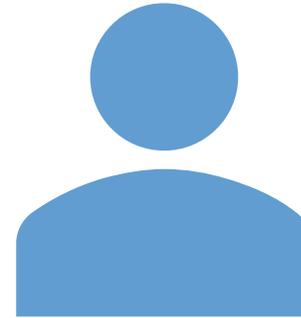
# RNEP Staff



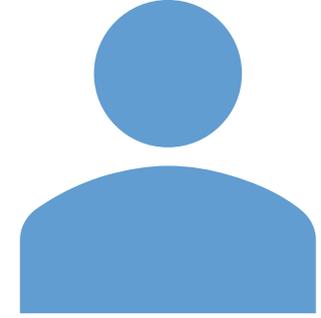
Reesa Reonal, MPH  
RNEP Program Manager  
[reesamarie.reonal@doh.wa.gov](mailto:reesamarie.reonal@doh.wa.gov)



Blair Glanville, MS  
Administrative Assistant  
[Blair.Glanville@doh.wa.gov](mailto:Blair.Glanville@doh.wa.gov)



TBD  
RNEP Student  
Support Specialist



TBD  
RNEP Program  
Evaluator

# Rural Nursing Education Program (RNEP)

## **Mission:**

To grow a strong and diverse rural nursing workforce by providing access to remote rural nursing education and training.

# Rural Nursing Education Program (RNEP)

## Vision:

Establish an innovative and sustainable “grow your own” remote nursing program using transformative clinical models that fosters community-based collaborations.

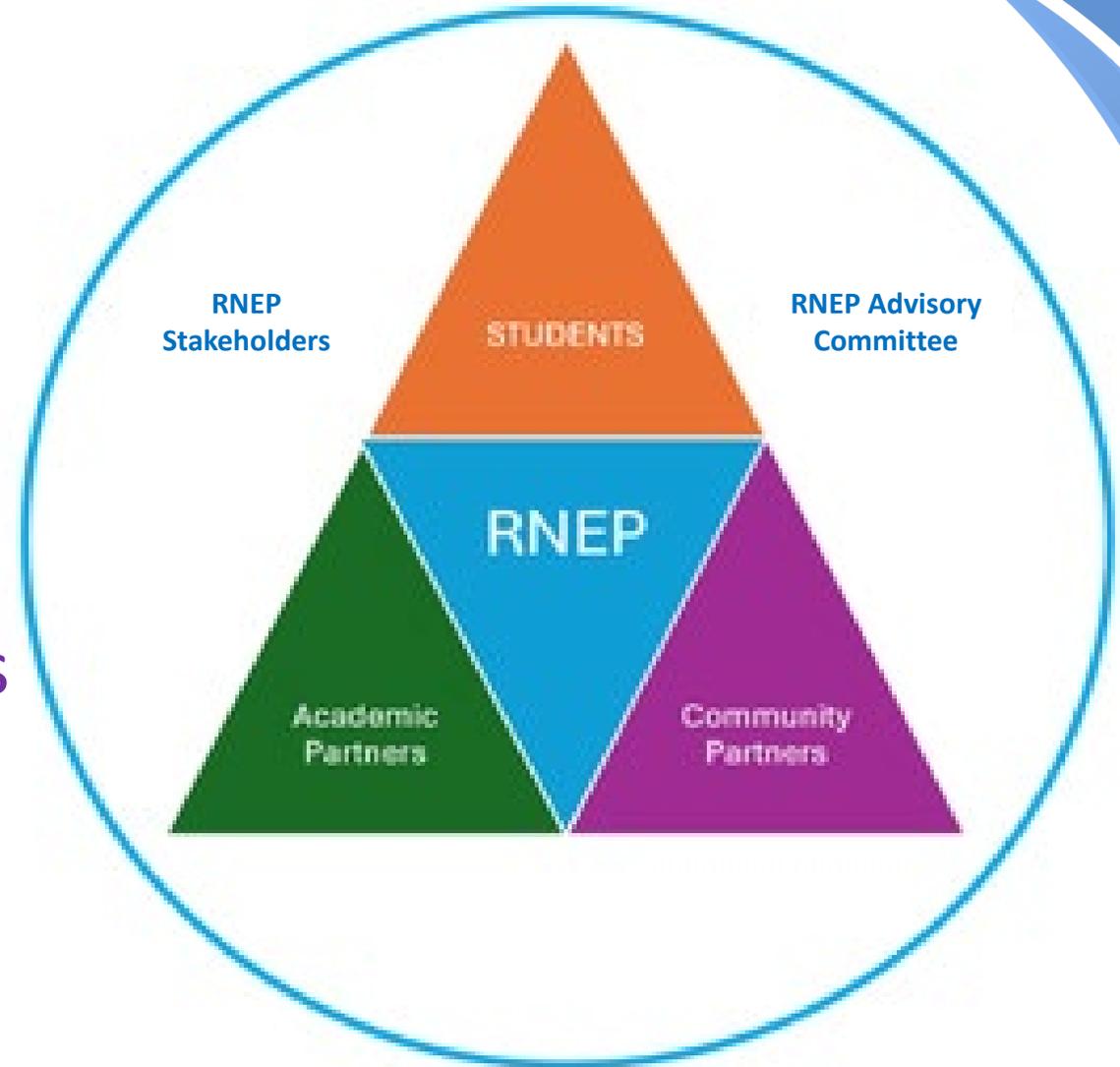
# Rural Nursing Education Program (RNEP)

## Goals:

- Educate students to be registered nurses who want to live, work, and learn in rural communities across Washington State.
- Partner with healthcare facilities, community organizations, and educational institutions to educate nursing students.

# Framework

- Students
- Academic Partners
- Rural Community Partners



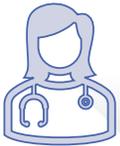
# RNEP Students



Currently live in rural community



Currently working in local Critical Access Hospital



Commitment to rural nursing practice after graduation



Acceptance into community college



# RNEP Student Support

Access to online coursework

Access to local clinical training

Tuition reimbursement

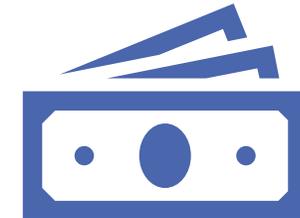
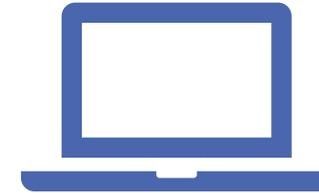
Academic and progression planning

Tutoring services

Standardized test prep

Travel

Stipends (childcare, food security)



# RNEP Student Feedback

**“Having the opportunity to attend school online is the only way I’m going to be able to financially take care of my family while working towards my career goals. The RNEP Program has saved me and finally given me the chance I need to become a nurse.”**

- 2024-2025 RNEP student

# Benefits of RNEP Partnership

Increases student enrollment in nursing programs

Increases RNs trained and ready to enter workforce

Fosters partnerships between rural health care, academic institutions, and students

Provides academic partners with nursing consultation

Offers supports to convert curriculum to online formats

Guarantees tuition payment

Prepares preceptors through dedicated training

Promotes program and academic success through individualized student supports and wraparound services – reduces educational barriers

Provides centralized coordination for program administration

# What RNEP is looking for

**Two new academic partners with the following:**

- Strong organizational support
- Academic need for students
- Availability and readiness for expansion
- Interest in partnership with RNEP and rural health care facilities
- Rural teaching experience
- Support resources for students
- Support of “grow your own” rural nursing workforce

# Conditions of Participation

## **RNEP Academic partners will:**

- Offer Associate Degree in Nursing.
- Agree to convert and offer nursing school curriculum to an online format.
- Complete substantive change for program expansion to WABON.
- Agree to work with RNEP Staff and consultants to implement program.
- Provide qualified nursing faculty to support an additional cohort(s) of 10 RNEP students.
- Prioritize RNEP students for nursing school admission.
- Agree to use a preceptor model for clinical education.
- Offer flexibility in simulation experiences related to clinical education.
- Participate in RNEP meetings, advocacy and evaluations.

# Timeline

2026

- February 17 – Academic partner and Community partner applications launch
- **March 9** – Academic partner applications due
- End of March – Partners selected
- End of May – Students selected
- Fall 2026 – Start minimum of 20 new students in pre-requisites (2 new academic partners)

# How to Apply

Gather information needed for application:

- Accreditation and date of next accreditation review
- List or link of program prerequisites
- List of courses offered online (if any)
- List of current hospital partners (if any)

Identify individuals to serve as **primary** and **secondary** RNEP contacts

Complete Institutional Endorsements and Attestation form with requested signatures

Complete the application form and upload required documentation

**APPLICATIONS DUE: Monday, March 9 by 5:00 PM**

# Visit the RNEP website

## Rural Nursing Education Program (RNEP)

Rural Nursing  
Education Program  
(RNEP)

Students

Community Partners

Academic Partners

RNEP News and Resources



<https://waportal.org/health-initiatives/rural-nursing-education-program>

# Q&A



# Additional Questions?

Kelly Shaw, MPH

Director, Health Workforce & Primary Care Systems  
Development

Reesa Reonal, MPH

Program Manager, RNEP

[RNEP@doh.wa.gov](mailto:RNEP@doh.wa.gov)





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