

# Rural Nursing Education Program (RNEP)

Community Partner Webinar  
February 18, 2026



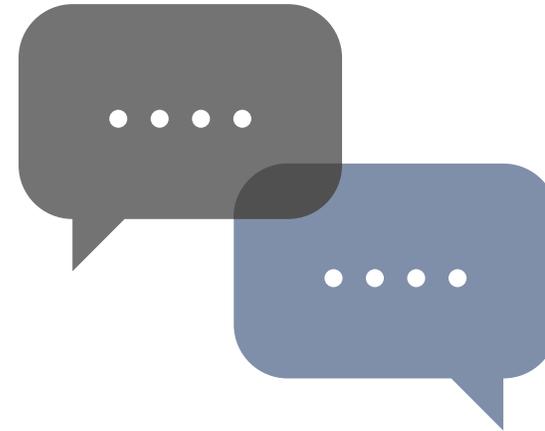
*RNEP-Revolutionizing Rural Nursing Education in Washington State*



# 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



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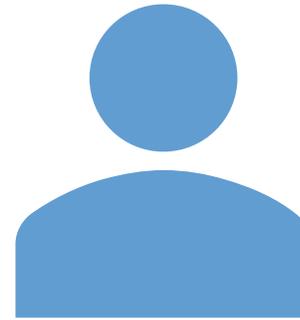
# RNEP Staff



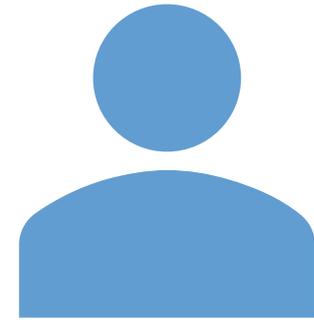
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TBD  
RNEP Student  
Support Specialist



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.

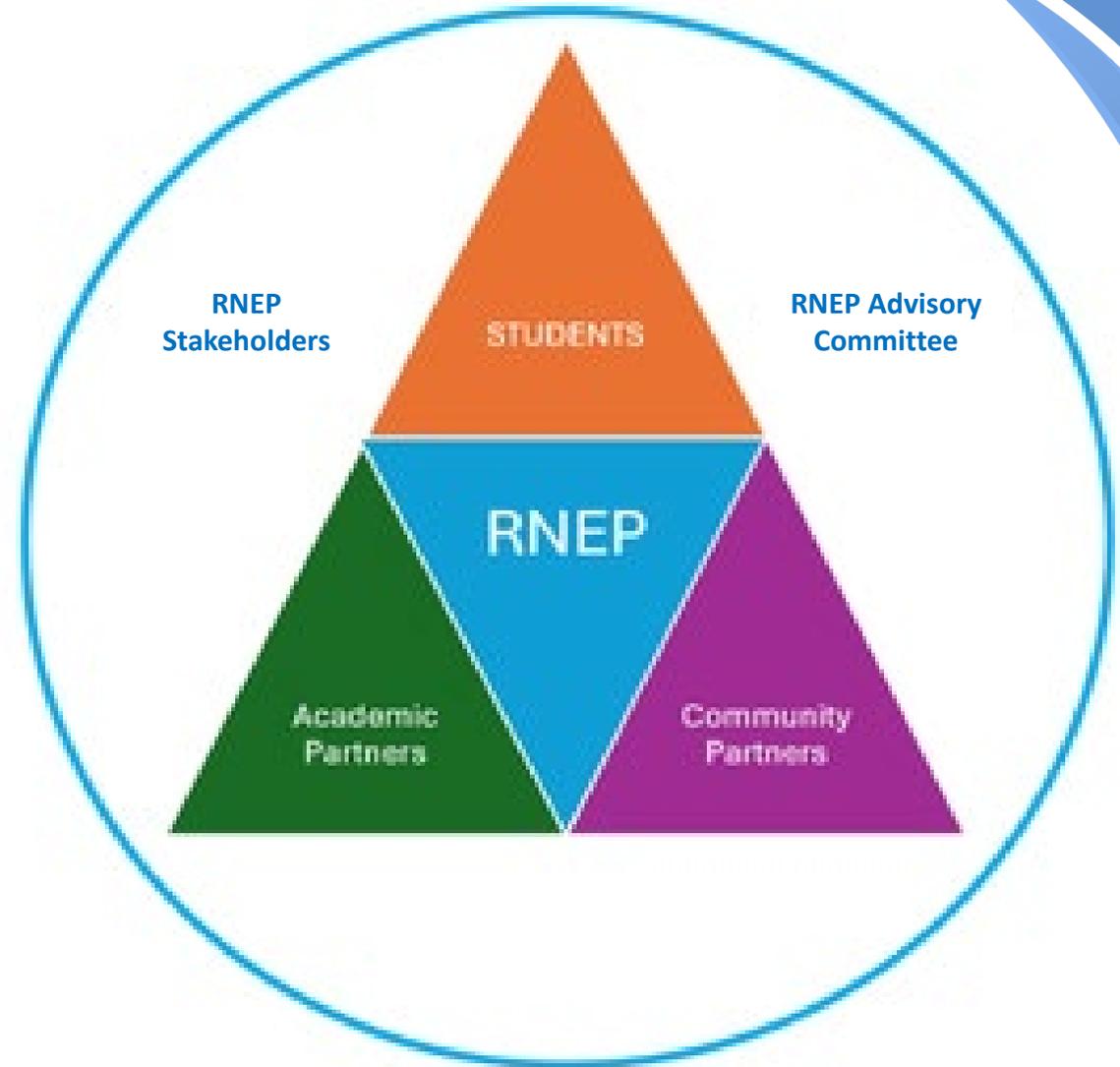
# Rural Nursing Education Program (RNEP)

## 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



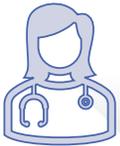
# RNEP Students



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

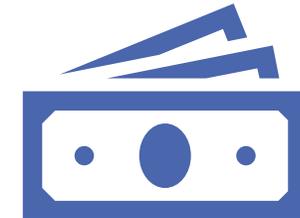
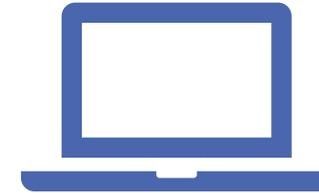
Academic and progression planning

Tutoring services

Standardized test prep

Travel

Stipends (childcare, food security)

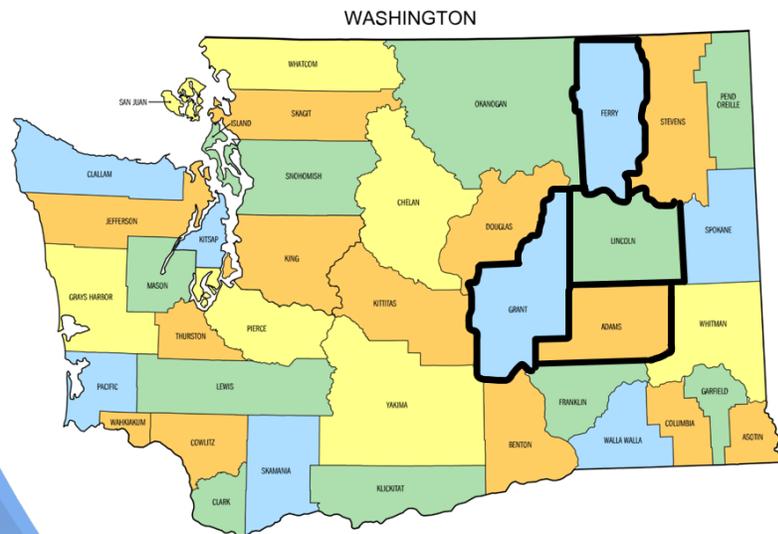


# RNEP Student Feedback

**“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

# Current Community Partners



Coulee Medical Center  
Grand Coulee, WA



Ferry County Health  
Republic, WA



Lincoln Hospital & Clinics  
Davenport, WA



Othello Community Hospital  
Othello, WA

# Benefits of RNEP Partnership

Increases RNs trained and ready to enter workforce

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

Mitigates educational barriers through tuition support and wraparound services for students

Prepares preceptors through dedicated training

Reduces rural health care reliance on traveling nurses

Addresses nursing shortages in Washington's rural communities

Provides centralized coordination for program administration

# What RNEP is looking for

Strong Organizational support

Variety of services

Need for workforce expansion

Interest in partnership

Have employees interested in being RN's

Support resources for students including flexible time for studies

Have nurses who want to be preceptors and will go through training

Commitment to “grow your own” rural nursing workforce

# Conditions of Participation

## **RNEP Community partners will:**

- Identify, nominate, and support at least two potential students for RNEP.
- Sign an affiliation agreement with a participating RNEP academic partner.
- Work collaboratively with RNEP, partners, and the WA State Department of Health.
- Offer flexible scheduling to RNEP students.
- Provide hospital space for studying and simulation training.
- Provide onsite clinical training for RNEP students.
- Assist in identifying associated community partners for additional clinical training.
- Identify at least two nursing staff willing to precept RNEP students.
- Support nursing staff to attend RNEP preceptor training.
- Participate in RNEP meetings, advocacy and evaluations.
- Prioritize RNEP graduates for employment as RNs.

# Timeline

2026

- February 17 – Academic partner and Community partner applications launch
- March 12 at 8:30 am – RNEP Presentation at NW Rural Health Conference in Spokane
- **March 23** – Community partner applications due
- End of March – Partners selected
- End of May – Students selected
- Fall 2026 – Start of next cohorts

# How to Apply

## Gather information needed for application:

- Average daily census
- Percentage of traveling RNs
- FTE of employed RNs – Associate, Bachelor's and Master's degree levels
- FTE of RN vacancies
- Available services at your facility

Identify individuals to serve as primary and secondary RNEP contacts

Complete the application form

**APPLICATIONS DUE: Monday, March 23 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?

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