BACKGROUND
The demand for women's providers is escalating with many new women enrollees seeking primary care services via the Affordable Care Act legislation. Specialized knowledge of women's health care is heightened when women also have multiple chronic conditions. North Carolina has a particular need with 28% of women living in medically underserved counties, especially related to women's maternity care.

PURPOSE
To initiate the Women's Health Nurse Practitioner (WHNP) major within the MSN program at Duke University School of Nursing

METHODS
- Apply for HRSA Advanced Nurse Education grant
- Build on current accredited NP program, adding women's health curriculum
- Develop and implement innovative and sustainable IPE didactic and clinical experiences for students in WHNP, PA and DPT programs
- Train all WHNP students in the CenteringPregnancy model, which has been shown to reduce preterm birth rates and supports women psychosocially.
- Attention to diverse populations such as women veterans, LGBTQ women and men, infertile couples, and Hispanic populations.
- Marketing of the WHNP program

RESULTS
- Received HRSA grant approval: July 2014, re-funded for 2015.
- Marketing regionally and nationally with 29 students enrolled in 2015.
- 2016 – Comprehensive clinical work, 1st graduates expected August 2016.

REFERENCES


Vision of Two WHNP Students
Melanie:
"I had a personal experience with my own high-risk pregnancy in 2012... After a life-threatening dramatic delivery of my twin sons, I knew clearly that I wanted to spend the rest of my career helping women and their healthcare needs."
"My goal upon graduating is to provide primary and maternal care to the women's population in the Charlotte community where I currently reside. It is an ethnically diverse population... from the young adolescent to the geriatric. I hope to be able to work with my patients to help them achieve healthier pregnancies and healthier lifestyles and to decrease risk factors that would rob them of the opportunity to reach for their dreams."

Lucian:
"... I chose the WHNP program at Duke because I want to empower women to take control of their health and to use my skillset to improve outcomes for at-risk populations. I believe Duke was the best fit for providing the tools and resources to bring this goal to fruition. I am very interested in working with disadvantaged teenage and young adult women in the realm of family planning services and education. I think by empowering women and educating them on their options, this can definitely have an impact on improving perinatal outcomes."