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**A Strategy to Increase the Educational Preparation of**

**North Carolina’s Nursing Workforce**

Research shows: *A more highly educated nursing workforce saves lives*. The Institute of Medicine set the following goal to improve the educational preparation of nurses:

* ***80% of the nurse workforce should be prepared at the baccalaureate or higher degree level by 202*0.** Currently, less than half of the North Carolina nursing workforce has a baccalaureate or higher degree.

**Some facts about Nursing Education in North Carolina:**

* There are multiple paths to nursing:
	+ Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) - one year
	+ Associate Degree RN (ADN) – two year
	+ Baccalaureate degree RN (BSN) – four year
* More opportunities exist for ADNs to advance to a BSN or higher degree than for LPNs
* LPNs most closely represent the diversity of our NC population with 33.2% being non-white. (NC population = 36.2 % non-white in 2015)

**Nursing Academic Progression Strategies to help meet the IOM 80% BSN goal:**

* Create streamlined and affordable academic pathways towards the BSN for LPNs
* Include LPNs in financial and support services initiatives to promote nursing education.

***How you can help advance LPN academic progression in North Carolina:***

* *Include support for LPNs in the Nurse Reinvestment Act*
* *Provide scholarship and loan forgiveness opportunities for LPNs to advance their education*
* *Include financial assistance in education program budgets for hiring academic progression counselors/coaches*

**Read the Full Report:** <http://ribn.org/library/library/other-resources/2016-lpn-bsn-feasibility-report.pdf>

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