

West Virginia Junior Nursing Academy

Mission

The Mission of the West Virginia Junior Nursing Academy shall be to: inspire middle school students to pursue a professional career in nursing.

The national nursing shortage will peak in 2020 with an estimated shortage of 800,000 nurses by 2010. Nurses are the largest critical component of the health care workforce. West Virginia's demand for nurses continues to grow as nurses age and retire and fewer students are drawn to the profession.

The focus of this project is to show middle school students the exciting opportunities and rewards that nursing has to offer and to help establish an educational path that will lead to a professional career in nursing. Reaching out to students before high school gives them the knowledge required to select the correct, preparatory high school classes. It also provides the incentive and support students need to excel. Students need to know the vast array of options that a nursing career holds for them. They need to learn about nursing specialties and mobility. Students need to know that it takes dedicated perseverance to get into and complete a nursing program.

Participating in the Junior Nursing Academy can increase self esteem and confidence and build positive bright outlooks for future nursing leaders. Helping middle school students gain a clear understanding of just what nursing is all about can assure that West Virginia has dedicated, well-trained nurses in the future.