



# RIBN CONNECTIONS

YOUR NEWS FROM THE FOUNDATION FOR NURSING EXCELLENCE

## SPRING 2014

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## WHERE YOU FIT IN: HOW RIBN STUDENTS HELP NC

*Kellie Monacell, editor*

You know that the RIBN initiative is great for students, but did you know that you, as a RIBN student, are great for your colleges, future employers, and community?

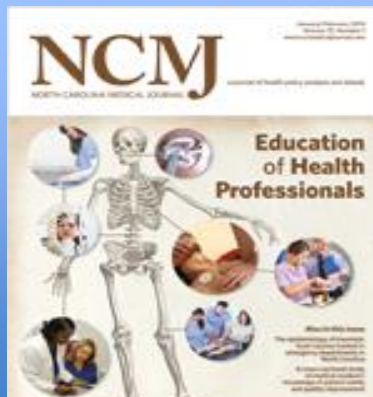
The benefits to you are easy to see; RIBN provides an affordable and convenient way to finish your BSN in your hometown, leading to a longer career with higher pay and more options including graduate work to become an APRN or educator.

As a RIBN student, you help your colleges to make efficient use of their resources and let them show you the power of sharing your experience by becoming an educator later in your career. You save your future employers money in tuition reimbursement and decreased turnover, and provide them with a nurse that is ready to excel. Best of all, you provide your community with a nurse that is ready to deliver the best care in complex situations.

Now that is something to be proud of!



RIBN students are the future of nursing in North Carolina.



## RIBN SPOTLIGHT

RIBN was featured in the [North Carolina Medical Journal!](#)

Polly Johnson, CEO of the Foundation for Nursing Excellence offered an overview of the program's origins, objectives, and progress with her article, "[The RIBN Initiative: A New Effort to Increase the Number of Baccalaureate Nurses in North Carolina.](#)"

Kent Dickerson from the Eastern North Carolina RIBN Collaborative explained RIBN from a local point of view with "[A Community College's Perspective on the RIBN Initiative.](#)"



## FILLING THE NURSING GAP

Students from the first WNC cohort starred in this great [video](#) about the RIBN program featured by the [Institute for Emerging Issues](#).

## NURSING IS NOT FOR COWARDS

*Susan Maloney, Triangle-Triad SSA, Forsyth Tech*

As the new SSA for Forsyth Tech, I am looking forward to the 2014-15 year with our first class of RIBN students! A few snow days gave me time to reflect upon my own days as a nursing student and what I might offer those headed down this challenging and, in many ways, life-changing path.

As I struggled to come up with an interesting story or some inspiring words for this newsletter, I came upon a book given to me by a friend after the birth of my first child. The book was titled *Parenting is Not for Cowards*. How true, I thought, but perhaps I should write a book called *Nursing is Not for Cowards*, as nursing is definitely **not** for those afraid of:

- Early mornings (OK, VERY early mornings!)
- Hours of studying, when you'd really rather be sleeping or having fun with your friends
- Long shifts, sometimes with few breaks (Sorry, no "power lunches" at classy restaurants)
- Encounters with some of the more "unpleasant" realities of life (yes, I mean blood, vomit, etc.)
- Occasional encounters with grouchy patients and sometimes even grouchier coworkers
- Frequent encounters with patients and mentors who will encourage and inspire you
- Embracing opportunities to interact and learn from those of different cultural backgrounds
- Life-long learning, because you will never "know it all"
- Embracing new career opportunities (research, teaching, travel nursing, etc.) that allow you to grow both personally and professionally
- Making a difference in the lives of others each day through a kind word, an attentive ear, or a compassionate touch
- Caring for yourself so that you, in turn, are able to care for others

That said, I wish the best to all of you! I look forward to hearing your stories and hope that you will share with me how I can better meet the needs of our future RIBN students.

## ALMOST THERE!

*FFNE Staff*

The first RIBN cohort from Western North Carolina's Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College and Western Carolina University are in their final semester of coursework and will graduate this May.

This first cohort of students began their RIBN journey in the 2010-11. Six of these students completed their third year in 2013, passed the NCLEX, started their first professional jobs, and began their fourth and final year as RIBN BSN students at WCU.

The WNC RIBN Partners and we at FFNE are all very proud of these students and their hard work blazing the trail for RIBN students statewide.

We would like to recognize Amanda Back, Kayla Edwards, Jessica Sams, Brett Gustafson, Holly House, and Ashley Sitton for proving it can be done!

## FROM THE COAST: WILMINGTON CHRISTMAS PARTY

*Erin Luce, Wilmington SSA*

My name is Erin Luce and I have been the Wilmington RIBN Advisor since last April. We have two cohorts now, and taking applications for our third to start in Fall 2014.

To connect the RIBN students outside of the classroom, we had a RIBN Christmas party in December once Fall courses ended, inviting their families as well. We had a great turn out at the local Elizabeth's Pizza.

We went around the table for introductions: each student introducing themselves and their families and ending with a question to ask for the older RIBN students or a suggestion for the younger RIBN students. Introductions took over an hour! This prompted such good conversation and sharing of RIBN information that the students are still talking about that night.

Conversation continued throughout dinner. We ended the night with playing a White Elephant Gift Exchange, which was a blast. The night truly gave all of the RIBN students an opportunity to connect as students, friends, and even as future co-workers!

I love my role as RIBN advisor: watching the students rise in their nursing journeys... and even getting a chance to work beside them in the hospital when they come in for clinical hours. It is a rewarding position and I know RIBN will just continue to expand as the news spreads throughout the region.



Some of the students in Wilmington gathered for a group photo at one of their social events.

## SSA SPOTLIGHT

*AMANDA BREWER*

Amanda Brewer works in the Triad-Triangle RIBN program, serving both Randolph Community College and Winston-Salem State University.

She comes to the program with a Master's in College Counseling and Student Development from The University of North Carolina at Greensboro and a professional background in advising and teaching.

Amanda will be spreading the word about RIBN throughout Randolph County!

Visit RIBN VOICES to [learn about some of the other SSAs!](#)

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## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

*Morgan Dawson, ENC 2016*

I am currently in the second semester of my sophomore year at Pitt Community College and East Carolina University as part of the RIBN program. My original plan was to attend East Carolina University for nursing, but after applying to ECU I heard about the RIBN program.... After my third year in RIBN, I will be able to take the NCLEX-RN and begin working as an RN, while still taking online classes at ECU to complete my BSN in another year.

I enjoy taking classes at Pitt Community College and feel it is beneficial for me to have smaller class sizes and to be able to have relationships with my teachers. My RIBN advisor, Mrs. Kelly Cleaton, is also a great help and supporter. She is always available to help in any way, whether to answer my questions, register me for classes at ECU, let me know of scholarships or services available, and she does everything she can to help me succeed. I feel very fortunate to have been accepted into this program, and will be proud to be in the first RIBN graduating class.



## WE HEARD YOU!

This newsletter is part of our response to your feedback on the Connect for Success Student Survey that many of you completed in the fall.

The SSAs in some regions have started regional Facebook groups for their students. We are also starting a statewide RIBN students Facebook group this semester based on the feedback from the survey. Information on how to join will be coming to you soon.

You also asked us for mentors. One RIBN region is in the early stages of exploring a mentorship program for their students and FFNE is laying the groundwork for a statewide program to connect you all with mentors.

Locally, be on the lookout for events hosted by your SSAs including socials, review sessions, and workshops.

We at FFNE and the collaborative partners in your regions want to provide you with opportunities to connect with each other, with faculty, with professional organizations, and with nurses in your regions and across the state. Please bring your ideas to your SSAs or FFNE so that we can help you Connect for Success and complete your BSN!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Join us for the statewide RIBN Conference! Lunch and networking start at 11:30. Afternoon panels will focus on recruiting for diversity and the needs of students.

### REGISTER TODAY

TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 2014

3RD ANNUAL  
Statewide RIBN Conference

*RIBN - Moving Seamlessly  
into the Future*



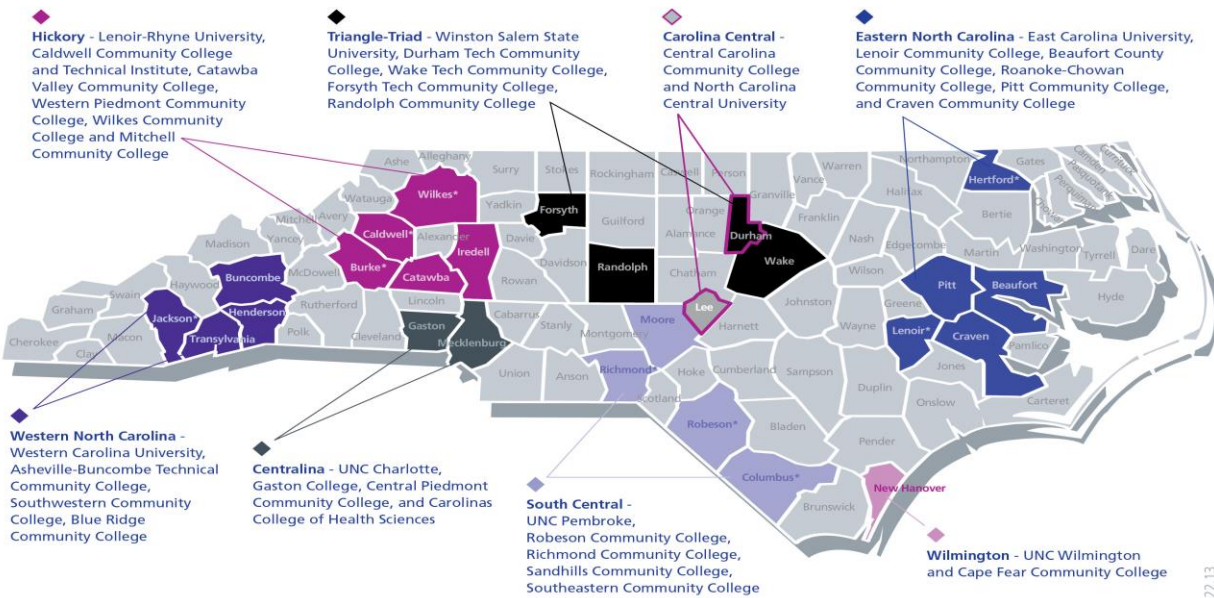
[Get the Details!](#)

### CONTACT THE EDITOR

Email your stories, ideas, and letters to Kellie Monacell, RIBN Project Coordinator, Foundation for Nursing Excellence at [kellie.monacell@ffne.org](mailto:kellie.monacell@ffne.org).

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## REGIONAL RIBN COLLABORATIVES



[www.ffne.org/ribn-project](http://www.ffne.org/ribn-project)

\* Tier One Counties

The 40 most distressed counties are designated as Tier 1 by the North Carolina Department of Commerce.

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RIBN students attend colleges and universities from the mountains to the coast, and new institutions are joining.

CONNECT WITH RIBN and FFNE



[www.RIBN.org](http://www.RIBN.org)