



Bemidji State University Department of Nursing has a program to support American Indian pre-nursing and nursing students. The Niganawenimaanaanig Program, an Ojibwe word meaning “we take care of them”, is funded by HRSA Nursing Workforce Diversity grant which serves to increase the number of minority nurses to improve patient outcomes.

Niganawenimaanaanig Program support includes:

- Social
- Cultural
- Academic
- Financial

Students meet weekly with a mentor to discuss goals, academics, challenges to success, etc. The mentor will guide students to appropriate resources, be a liaison between faculty and student, and provide support and encouragement. The mentor serves as a professional role model, a trustworthy adult, and someone to share personal or academic concerns with in a safe environment. Weekly mentor meetings are required.

Culture is a significant part of the program, and students will be required to participate in at least one cultural activity per month through the Niganawenimaanaanig Program. Students will be encouraged to learn more about the American Indian cultures and traditions to help establish or maintain cultural identity. Students will have the chance to meet and socialize with other American Indian nursing and non-nursing students, faculty, staff and community members.

Students earning a C or less in any course will be required to attend tutoring. Students sign an agreement on the application to allow intensive monitoring. This monitoring allows the student mentor to contact faculty to receive updates on student performance. Interventions will be implemented to help with student success.

Students admitted to the 4-year or RN-BS program are eligible to receive financial support through the grant. Students can receive \$2000 per semester in tuition assistance and \$500 per month in a stipend. The amount each student receives is determined by the Financial Aid office and the student’s financial need. Students can also receive financial support to purchase items required for the nursing program such as uniforms and laptops.

The Niganawenimaanaanig Program provides American Indian students with the holistic support needed to increase their likelihood of graduating from the nursing program. Applications can be found at:

<https://www.bemidjistate.edu/academics/departments/nursing/niganawenimaanaanig-program-application>

For more information contact:

Dr. Misty Wilkie, PhD, RN

mwilkie@bemidjistate.edu

218-755-2715