



**Our Mission:** To improve health outcomes for citizens of North Carolina by enhancing the practice of nursing through leadership, development, research and demonstrations projects.

**Our Vision:** To become a significant conduit through which innovative ideas related to health and healthcare can be evaluated and disseminated to the principal arenas of professional nursing and healthcare practice in North Carolina.

**HISTORY:** The Foundation for Nursing Excellence (“FFNE”) was created by the NC Board of Nursing in April 2002 as a non-profit, corporation organized to improve health outcomes for the citizens of North Carolina by enhancing the practice of nursing and to support projects whose efforts will provide new and innovative methodologies related to nursing regulation and safe, effective nursing practice.

In January 2005, the FFNE sponsored its first invitational conference focused on improving health care delivered to citizens of NC. The Patient Safety Symposium was held to update attendees on patient safety initiatives nationally and across North Carolina and to identify opportunities to enhance patient safety through collaboration among NC’s leading health care entities. This symposium was the first of its kind held in North Carolina. In 2005, FFNE initiated an evidence-based Transition to Practice project to improve patient safety and retention of newly licensed nurses in the workplace.

In September 2008, the FFNE hired the first President and Chief Executive Officer, Polly Johnson, RN, MSN, FAAN, and began the RIBN (Regionally Increasing Baccalaureate Nurses) initiative to increase the educational preparation of NC’s nursing workforce. In 2011, FFNE became the Co-Lead for the NC Future of Nursing Action Coalition.

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**FFNE Achievements and Activities:** The Foundation for Nursing Excellence (FFNE) exists to positively impact health outcomes for North Carolinians by addressing nursing workforce issues and improving patient safety. Several key FFNE achievements and on-going projects include:

1. Developed on line Nurse Preceptor Training Development modules and simulation tools to support the competence and confidence development of newly licensed nurses entering the nursing workforce; Preceptor Role Development eLearning Modules are now available through NC Area Health Education Centers virtual library; Preceptor Development Simulation Modules are available at <http://www.aheconnect.com/newahec/default.asp>
2. Coordinates the Regionally Increasing Baccalaureate Nurses (RIBN) project which offers an economically feasible BSN educational track through partnerships between community colleges and universities. RIBN now has 25 community colleges, a private college and 8 universities involved in this initiative to increase the educational preparation of our nursing workforce;
3. Coordinated a statewide Summit on the Future of Nursing with more than 200 thought leaders in attendance in April 2011 based on the 2010 Institute of Medicine's *"The Future of Nursing; Leading Change, Advancing Health Report"*;
4. Co-leader of the NC Future of Nursing Action Coalition with NC AARP including co-lead of the BSN & Higher Degree Taskforce with NC AHEC; and
5. Convener of a Nurse Practitioner Transition to Primary Care Practice initiative to identify key elements needed in a transition to practice program for North Carolina.