MINORITY PRE-NURSING INSTITUTE™

Changing the Landscape of Nursing



MPINSTITUTE.ORG

Public Charity Status 509(a)(2)

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Executive Summary:

Founded in 2023, the Minority Pre-Nursing Institute (MPI) is a Pittsburgh-based 509(a)(2) nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing diversity within the nursing profession by introducing middle and high school students to nursing and healthcare career pathways. Through innovative education, mentorship, and hands-on clinical experiences, MPI is developing the next generation of healthcare professionals while addressing the growing demand for a skilled, diverse, and culturally competent nursing workforce.

MPI was established on the belief that early exposure to nursing education, mentorship, and professional opportunities can transform students' futures and strengthen the healthcare system.

Vision:

To create a healthcare landscape that reflects the diversity of the communities it serves by establishing a sustainable pipeline of qualified, compassionate, and culturally competent nursing professionals

Mission:

To inspire and equip the next generation of healthcare leaders by promoting nursing as an inclusive, rewarding, and attainable career choice for middle and high school students, particularly those from historically underrepresented communities.

Program Objectives:

MPI offers a comprehensive, school-based pre-nursing education program designed for middle and high school students. Its curriculum combines nursing theory, healthcare science, career exploration, and practical clinical skills.

Students participate in engaging educational experiences that include:

- Anatomy, physiology, and medical terminology
- Vital signs assessment and patient care fundamentals
- Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training and certification
- Medication administration principles and dosage calculations
- Electrocardiogram (EKG) interpretation and cardiac rhythms
- Blood typing, phlebotomy, and infection prevention
- Clinical simulations, critical thinking, and patient case studies
- Professional communication, leadership, and teamwork
- College preparation, nursing career exploration, and mentorship
- Highly experienced nursing professionals deliver instruction, including master's-prepared educators with more than 18 years of nursing experience.
- MPI's approach bridges the gap between traditional classroom learning and real-world healthcare practice, helping students build confidence, foundational clinical knowledge, and a deeper understanding of the nursing profession.

Program Overview:

- Entire Semester
- 1 day a week/2 hours a day

Strategic Partnerships and Community Engagement:

- MPI collaborates with educational institutions, healthcare organizations, and community partners to expand access to nursing education and career development opportunities.
- Current and developing relationships include Penn Hills High School, Penn Hills Middle School, Urban Pathways Charter School, Manchester Academic Charter School, the Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC), and other regional healthcare and educational stakeholders.
- Through these collaborations, MPI provides students with access to nursing professionals, healthcare facilities, simulation laboratories, college campuses, and experiences that strengthen their readiness for postsecondary education.

Dynamic curriculum:

- The Nursing Process and Concept Maps
- Case studies
- NCLEX questions
- ADLs
- Skills: Vital signs, medicine administration, math equations, lab values, blood draws, blood types, cranial nerve assessments, and much more
- Students will learn normal **VITAL SIGNS** and the causes and treatments for abnormal vital signs
- Students will explore the components and functions of the **CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM.** They will focus on its structure, the flow of blood, and blood types. They will also learn about how minorities have the highest incidence, prevalence, and hospitalization rates from heart failure and how to increase awareness within their family unit. They will also learn how to read rhythm strips, perform CPR, and use a temporary pacer box
- Students will explore the function of the **RESPIRATORY SYSTEM** and how it regulates blood pH and plays an important role in cellular respiration. Students will learn about chronic obstructive pulmonary disorders such as emphysema and how race and gender are associated with significant disparities in COPD diagnosis. Students will learn how to assess lung sounds and read arterial blood gases
- Students will explore how both **NERVOUS SYSTEMS** interact together and how minority populations in the United States have an increased stroke burden.
- Students will discuss the functionality of the **GASTROINTESTINAL SYSTEM** and the most common disorder, GERD. Students will discuss ways to decrease this disorder in minority communities.
- Students will understand how the **GENITOURINARY SYSTEM** works and explore risk factors that increase kidney disease in minorities.
- Students will explore the **INTEGUMENTARY SYSTEM** and how certain skin disorders appear on lighter versus darker skin and assess the different stages of pressure ulcers.
- Students will explore the **MUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTEM** and risk factors that increase fractures in the elderly population.
- Hospital or College shadowing hours (TBD)
- Career day
- Graduation and Pinning ceremony (2nd semester)

Target Audience:

Middle school students

High school students

Meet Some of Our Educators:

Tamara Moon, MSN, RN President and Founder, Minority Pre-Nursing Institute



In addition to serving as President, Tamara Moon is a passionate and dedicated nursing educator with 18+ years of nursing education and clinical experience. She holds a Master of Science in Nursing degree from Walden University. She has developed and implemented innovative curriculum and teaching strategies to engage learners and facilitate their professional growth. She is dedicated to shaping the next generation of compassionate and competent nursing students who are prepared to meet the evolving challenges of healthcare.

Kelly Starver, DNP, MS, BSN, RN Program Director, Minority Pre-Nursing Institute



Kelly Starver is an Assistant Professor at the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing. As a former Nurse Manager at the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System, Dr. Starver gained an extensive background in Behavioral Health and was the Chair of the Greater Pittsburgh Nursing Research Conference. She is a proficient nurse passionate about advancing healthcare by recognizing the social detriments of health, their effect on health outcomes, the lack of adequate coverage, and access to providers that are a part of the community of color. Dr. Starver is determined to increase the number of students of color in nursing schools by identifying systemic and disadvantageous challenges within institutions. Dr. Starver embodies the highest standards of leadership and expertise.

Dawna Bivins CRNP, MSN, RN Program Director, Minority Pre-Nursing Institute



Dawna Bivins is a Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner (CRNP) with over a decade of experience in family medicine. She currently works in Occupational Medicine as a CRNP. She has worked in various community health centers where she has provided comprehensive care and as Adjunct Faculty for Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine. She is a strong believer that diversity and inclusion are needed in all aspects of healthcare. She works and develops wellness campaigns to assist employees with effective health, maintenance, and behavioral health techniques. She also volunteers and mentors youth to develop healthy wellness and lifestyle choices through outdoor activities such as hiking and biking.

Meet Our Board of Directors:



Tamara Moon, MSN, RN President and Founder

Tamara Moon is a visionary leader in nursing education, combining her extensive clinical background with a deep commitment to nurturing future healthcare leaders. As the President and Founder of the Minority Pre-Nursing Institute, she harnesses her passion for mentorship and education to create transformative experiences for aspiring nurses. Tamara's educational journey, crowned with a Master of Science in Nursing, equips her with a unique blend of theoretical acumen and practical prowess. She excels in creating an enriching learning environment that not only imparts knowledge but also instills the confidence and competence necessary to excel in a rapidly evolving healthcare industry. Her dedication to promoting diversity in nursing and her innovative approaches to teaching have established her as a key figure in shaping the trajectory of nursing education. Her unwavering commitment to excellence and continuous improvement positions her as an inspiring role model and an influential force in the realm of nursing and healthcare education.



Kimberly A. Henderson, PhD-c, DNP, CRNP, FNP-BC, Vice President

Kimberly's career in healthcare began in 1992 as a Registered Nurse. After gaining valuable experience for eight years, she pursued advanced training, earning a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) as a Family Nurse Practitioner in 1999 from the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing. Kimberly's commitment to learning continued with a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree from the same esteemed institution in 2011. Throughout Kimberly's career, she has had the privilege of working in various specialties, including family practice, cardiac care, and currently, vascular surgery. Kimberly has gained experience across different healthcare systems, working at UPMC, Allegheny Health Network, and now serving our veterans at the Pittsburgh VA Healthcare System. Beyond her clinical practice, Kimberly has always felt a strong commitment to giving back to the community. She has volunteered countless hours at health fairs, providing blood pressure screenings and healthcare preventative counseling. Kimberly is passionate about empowering individuals to take charge of their health and has offered personal health advocacy services to those in need. For the past six years, Kimberly has proudly served; and continues to serve, our country in the US Army Reserves. Kimberly's dedication to patient care and lifelong learning extends further as she pursues a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) at the Catholic University of America.



Tyoato Betters-Price, Treasurer

Tyoato Betters-Price is a seasoned subrogation manager with 26+ years of experience in healthcare subrogation. She is skilled in navigating state laws nationwide and ensures settlements align with client needs. As Subrogation Manager at Optum, Tyoato leads client meetings, optimizes file management, and resolves requests promptly. Tyoato holds a Bachelor of Business Administration and Management from Edinboro University of and is a proud member of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Beyond her professional endeavors, Tyoato is actively involved in her community and has held various board positions, including Treasurer roles in organizations such as the Penn Hills High School PTA and Girl Scouts of America. She also dedicates her time to volunteer work with organizations like the Visionary Dance Company and the Penn Hills Senior High Cheerleading team, demonstrating a passion for supporting youth and the arts.

Denine Bransom, BSN, RN, Secretary

Denine is a dedicated and compassionate nurse with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree. With a passion for patient care and a commitment to excellence, she brings unique skills and experiences to the healthcare field. Having served in the US Army Reserves, she has honed valuable qualities such as leadership, discipline, and resilience. These attributes, combined with her nursing education, enable her to excel in high-pressure situations and provide optimal care to patients. Denine has dedicated her career to serving veterans at The VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System. She is dedicated to ongoing professional development and staying abreast of the latest advancements in nursing practice. Her dedication to serving others and making a positive impact in healthcare is evident in their daily work and interactions with patients, colleagues, and the community.

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Graduating Class of 2026

PHorge Academy Health Program



Students of the PHorge Academy Healthcare Program



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What Families & Educators Are Saying

On behalf of K. Jabbaar's family, we would like to thank you all for this amazing opportunity for the children of our future.

Parent

Wonderful job, Nurse Educators! Continue doing amazing work with our children of the future. Round of applause!!

Teacher

The program was amazing. Happy my daughter Mila S. was able to be a part of something changing the future of our minorities. I also want to thank Mrs. Barker.

Parent

This was a wonderful ceremony and thank you so much for putting this program together for the kids!

Parent

I enjoyed this program. I am so proud of all the students and the teachers and staff who dedicated their time and patience. Thank you!!!

Parent

I am a teacher here at Linton. My students were too young to participate, however, I am extremely happy to be part of this moment. I listened to the students participate and present information about various parts of the body. They were very knowledgeable. I am pleased to see the impact of the Minority Pre-Nursing program at Linton Middle School Thanks for giving our students this amazing opportunity.

Teacher

Thank you for having this program for the students. We look forward to further training and assistance from nurses and staff members moving forward in their studies. This was a great opportunity, and rewarding. Please continue to have students prepared for college studies. This nursing program was very informative.

School Admin

This is a beautiful program! I also am a minority nurse, and what you are doing is wonderful! Seeing other Black women and men in our field is such a blessing because we have to be represented. Thank you!

Parent

Beautiful ceremony and recognition towards students and staff and for focusing on giving them the best experience for their future.

Parents & Family

Survey Results

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Question 1: How likely are you to recommend this course to a classmate or friend?

89% of these students said they would recommend this course to a classmate or friend

Question 2: Has this course increased your interest in the nursing field?

89% of these students said this course increased their interest in the nursing field

Question 3: How likely are you to enroll in a nursing program after high school?

78% of these students said they would likely enroll in a nursing program after high school

Question 4: What topic did you like most about the course?

Circulatory System and Nervous System were the most common answer, followed by the Musculoskeletal and Digestive Systems.



WE ARE THE FUTURE OF NURSING

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Dream Big You Are THE FUTURE OF NURSING



ENROLL YOUR MIDDLE SCHOOL OR HIGH SCHOOL IN MPI's PRE-NURSING PROGRAM

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Who We Are

The Minority Pre-Nursing Institute (MPI) is a non-profit precollegiate mentorship program that is designed to introduce middle school and high school students to the field of nursing and provide them with foundational knowledge and experiences that will support academic success in diploma, associate degree, and baccalaureate-prepared nursing programs.

Topics Covered

- The Nursing Process
- Overview of Body Systems
- Common Diseases
- Concept Maps
- Clinical Skills
- Case Studies
- NCLEX Questions

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