

NursesMC, HCA Healthcare TriStar Health Launch Innovative High School to Address Local Nursing Shortages

Partnership made possible by Bloomberg Philanthropies first-of-its-kind initiative to support career-technical education in 10 U.S. communities

Providence, RI – January 18, 2024 — [Nurses Middle College \(NursesMC\)](#) will take its groundbreaking nursing career-focused high school model to Nashville, TN, thanks to a \$21.7 million, five-year grant from [Bloomberg Philanthropies](#). With its lead partner [TriStar Health](#), an affiliate of [HCA Healthcare](#), and other Nashville-based health systems, NursesMC will open a nursing-focused high school that will help prepare students for well-paying careers in healthcare and address local education and healthcare talent needs. The new school will fully integrate healthcare knowledge and job-training with an academically rigorous high school experience, graduating Nashville-area students who are college and career ready.

The school is modeled on the [Rhode Island Nurses Institute \(RINI\) Middle College Charter High School](#), located in Providence, which has an exemplary record of preparing students from groups that are underrepresented in the healthcare workforce. Ninety percent of RINI students come from Black, Hispanic, and low-income backgrounds. Most RINI graduates earn at least 12 college credits and a health career certificate prior to graduation and start their nursing journeys as certified nursing assistants, medical assistants, or emergency medical technicians. A second middle college, NursesMC-Capital Region, was established in Albany, NY, in 2021.

“Students are eager for educational experiences today that feel relevant to what they will do tomorrow in their careers. Many of them also wish to serve their community’s needs with purposeful work. This innovative high school model will ensure students in Nashville interested in nursing and other healthcare careers can gain real experience while also acquiring the core foundational math, science, and literacy skills that we focus on during those formative secondary years,” said Pamela McCue, PhD, RN, CEO of NursesMC.

Bloomberg Philanthropies’ investment will support school start-up costs including personnel, classroom and lab renovations, and other work-based learning requirements. NursesMC-Nashville will be specifically designed to provide traditional academic courses based on state graduation requirements, as well as specialized healthcare courses. Students will also engage in immersive work-based learning at TriStar Health and other Nashville-based health system facilities. Ninth and tenth graders will participate in job shadowing and practice their skills in simulation labs. Starting in 11th grade, students will have access to paid healthcare internships and professional mentoring, among other work-based learning experiences. NursesMC-Nashville is expected to admit its first enrollees in 2025 and serve 500 students at capacity.

“Nurses are the cornerstone of our mission, and we are committed to training and educating the next generation of nurses and providing career paths where they can learn, grow and make a difference in the lives of patients we have the privilege of serving,” said Stephanie Wise, TriStar Health Chief Nurse Executive. TriStar Health will dedicate members of its clinical education team to support the delivery of a strong curriculum by NursesMC. Senior students who work for TriStar Health and continue their employment after graduation will be able to pursue a nursing degree with tuition assistance at the HCA Healthcare-owned Galen College of Nursing. “We are grateful to Bloomberg Philanthropies and Nurses

Middle College, who will be investing in these students in the coming years to build a strong pipeline of nurses who desire to make an impact through a meaningful healthcare career,” Wise added.

Bloomberg Philanthropies is devoting \$250 million to this first-of-its-kind initiative. “For too long, our education system has failed to prepare students for good jobs in high-growth industries,” said Michael R. Bloomberg, founder of Bloomberg Philanthropies and Bloomberg LP and 108th mayor of New York City. “By combining classroom learning with hands-on experience, these specialized healthcare high schools will prepare students for careers with opportunities for growth and advancement. America needs more healthcare workers, and we need a stronger, larger middle-class – and this is a way to help accomplish both goals.”

In addition to supporting NursesMC-Nashville, the grants will connect healthcare and education systems to create new career- and technical-education high schools in other urban communities including Boston, MA, Charlotte, NC, Dallas, TX, Durham, NC, Houston, TX, New York, NY, and Philadelphia, PA. Two rural areas, Demopolis, AL, and northeastern Tennessee also received funding.

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About NursesMC

NursesMC aims to dramatically improve health outcomes by launching and supporting outstanding nursing high schools that create a pipeline of diverse and well prepared future health professionals. Through innovative curriculum, state-of-the-art facilities, and partnerships with local healthcare organizations, we ensure our students graduate college and career ready.

In 2011, the Rhode Island Nurses Institute Middle College Charter High School opened in Providence, becoming the first U.S. public charter high school focused on the profession of nursing and Rhode Island’s first middle college. NursesMC was founded to replicate this model. It opened a second school, Nurses Middle College-Capital Region, in Albany, NY in 2023. For more information, visit nursesmc.org.

About TriStar Health

TriStar Health is one of the largest and most comprehensive healthcare providers in the region, comprised of 11 hospitals, 21 imaging centers, 93 physician offices, five freestanding ERs, eight outpatient surgery centers, 21 CareNow® Urgent Care centers and ten medical parks. TriStar Health utilizes advances in clinical technology and innovative procedures while delivering high-quality care. The TriStar Health network had over 900,000 encounters last year, including 478,000 ER visits, 93,000 inpatient admissions and 8,000 babies delivered. The network is supported by over 2,400 physicians and 10,000 employees – including more than 2,800 nurses – who, above all else, are committed to the care and improvement of human life. TriStar Health is an affiliate of HCA Healthcare, one of the nation’s leading providers of healthcare services. Learn more at TriStarHealth.com.

About Bloomberg Philanthropies

Bloomberg Philanthropies invests in 700 cities and 150 countries around the world to ensure better, longer lives for the greatest number of people. The organization focuses on creating lasting change in five key areas: the Arts, Education, Environment, Government Innovation, and Public Health. Bloomberg Philanthropies encompasses all of Michael R. Bloomberg's giving, including his foundation, corporate, and personal philanthropy as well as Bloomberg Associates, a philanthropic consultancy that advises cities around the world. In 2023, Bloomberg Philanthropies distributed \$3 billion. For more information, please visit bloomberg.org, sign up for our [newsletter](#), or follow us on [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), [YouTube](#), [Threads](#), [Facebook](#), and [X](#).

Media Contacts

NursesMC: Kristine Barnes, kbarnes@nursesmc.org

TriStar Health: Anna-Lee Cockrill, AnnaLee.Cockrill@hcahealthcare.com

Bloomberg Philanthropies: Jamila Johnson, jamila@bloomberg.org



[Link to hi-res image](#)

Nurses Middle College High School students practicing patient care skills.

Additional NursesMC photos available upon request.