

**The State of Massachusetts Awards \$500,000 Grant to Northeastern University's  
College of Professional Studies and Cambridge Health Alliance to  
Train Nurses and Health Care Employees**

*'Health Careers Learning Partnership' is aimed at bridging the gap between the number of  
qualified health care professionals and job vacancies in the allied health fields*

Northeastern University's College of Professional Studies, in partnership with Cambridge Health Alliance (CHA), has received a \$500,000 grant from the Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund, administered by Commonwealth Corporation on behalf of the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development to fund training, education, and credentialing programs for nurses and health care employees. Funded over three years, the "Health Careers Learning Partnership" will offer a bachelor's degree program for registered nurses (RN-to-BSN), and pre-requisite courses and a college readiness certificate program for health care employees.

Shifting demographics and an increasing need for elderly care are driving demand for industry-qualified, trained health care professionals at public hospital systems like CHA. The Health Careers Learning Partnership aims to address CHA's workforce needs.

"We are delighted to partner on this grant with Northeastern University's College of Professional Studies, a recognized leader in professional education," said Dennis Keefe, Chief Executive Officer, Cambridge Health Alliance. "This project will help Cambridge Health Alliance offer better patient care and delivery to the community we serve, and provide career pathways for our employees to gain industry-recognized credentials and skills."

Registered nurses will have the opportunity to earn a bachelor's degree in nursing through the RN-to-BSN program. For employees who are interested in enrolling in a health care college degree program, pre-requisite courses in the sciences will be offered through the College of Professional Studies. Additionally, college readiness and English language programs will be offered to those who need to enhance their academic foundation while building toward college pre-requisite courses. These programs are designed to eliminate barriers of entry to college degree programs.

"Cambridge Health Alliance is competing in a marketplace where qualified and credentialed nurses are in constant high demand," said Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D., Vice President and Dean, College of Professional Studies, Northeastern University. "At the College of Professional Studies, we're proud to join forces with Cambridge Health Alliance to provide educational pathways for registered nurses and health care employees. This project also underscores Northeastern's commitment to the City of Boston and the development of a sustainable workforce in the region's key industries such as health care."

**About the College of Professional Studies**

The College of Professional Studies provides adults, international students and working professionals with an education that is innovative, flexible, and substantial and at the nexus of practice and academic theory. Our programs are designed to reflect our students' career goals and provide them the opportunity for advancement. We have developed a rich academic

curriculum that corresponds to thriving industries such as healthcare, education, business, creative media, and information technology.

### **About Cambridge Health Alliance**

Cambridge Health Alliance (CHA) is an innovative, award-winning health system that provides high quality care in Cambridge, Somerville, and Boston's metro-north communities. It includes three hospital campuses, a network of primary care and specialty practices, the Cambridge Public Health Department, and the Network Health plan. With this unique model, CHA is able to offer the finest health services, a diverse working environment, and a premier training experience for those interested in community-based medicine.

### **About Northeastern**

Founded in 1898, Northeastern University is a private research university located in the heart of Boston. Northeastern is a leader in interdisciplinary research, urban engagement, and the integration of classroom learning with real-world experience. The university's distinctive cooperative education program, where students alternate semesters of full-time study with semesters of paid work in fields relevant to their professional interests and major, is one of the largest and most innovative in the world. The University offers a comprehensive range of undergraduate and graduate programs leading to degrees through the doctorate in six undergraduate colleges, eight graduate schools, and two part-time divisions. For more information, please visit [www.neu.edu](http://www.neu.edu).