

Our Future Home

Lifespan has expressed an interest in having the RINI Middle College Charter School located on the Lifespan campus in South Providence. This would be an ideal location because we hope to recruit a significant number of students from that community. It also would be in close proximity to the health care facilities where we hope our graduates will eventually find employment.

RINI's charter school advisory committee currently is working with Lifespan to develop a memorandum of understanding that would commit RINI to signing a five-year lease, upon final approval by the Board of Regents, to locate the Middle College School of Nursing on the Lifespan campus.

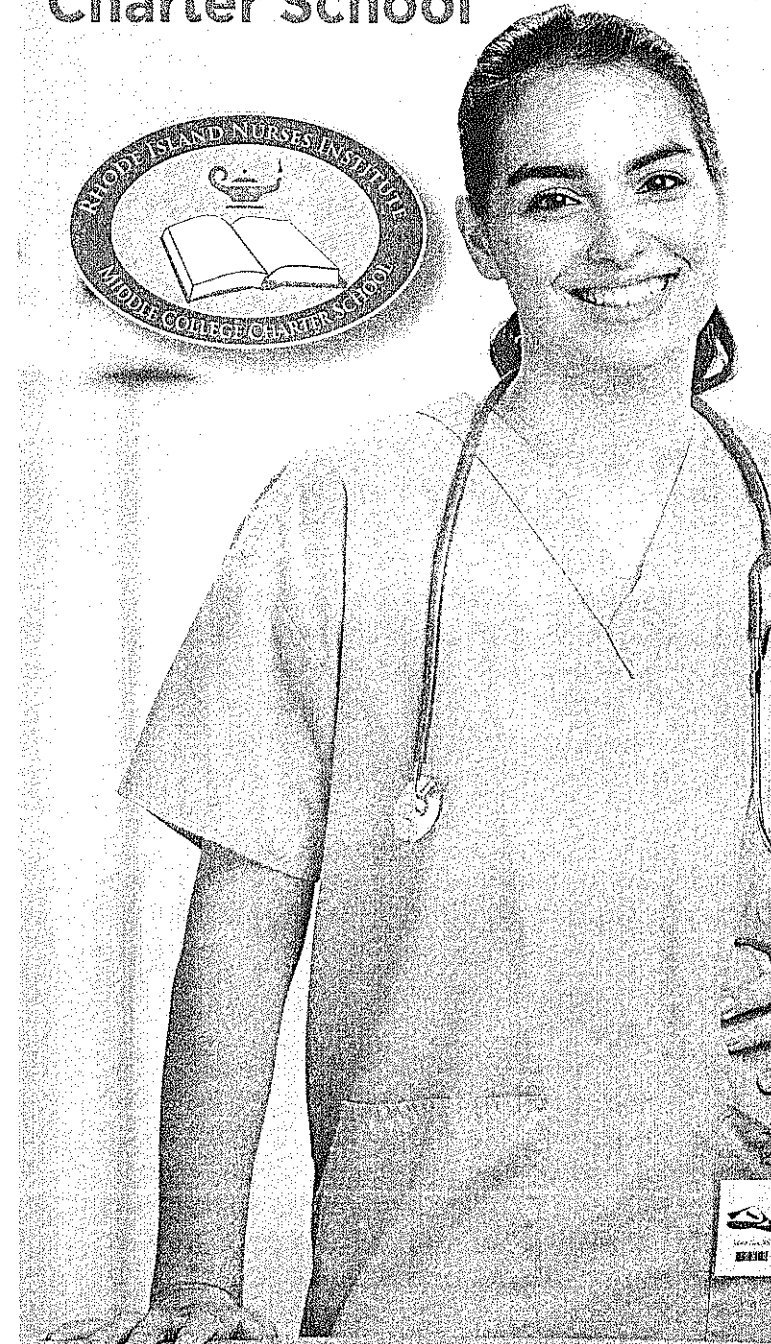
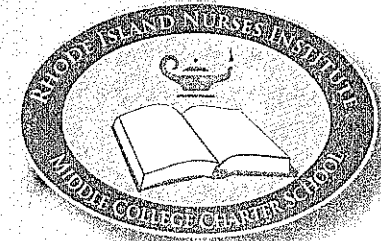
Once completed, the facility would not only serve the needs of the Middle College Charter School but also could be used for continuing education courses and/or to conduct refresher courses for nurses interested in returning to the profession. As a multi-use facility, the Middle College Charter School would be a significant resource for the nursing community and could provide a wide range of support services to nurses currently working in the profession as well as future generations of nurses.

RINI is in the process of raising funds for build out and equipment for laboratories, a library and other planned facilities for the school. We hope to have the enthusiastic support of the entire nursing community as we work to bring this exciting and innovative educational initiative to reality.



www.TomorrowsNurses.org

The RINI Middle College Charter School



A Briefing for the RN Community

On June 30, 2010, the Rhode Island Nurses Institute (RINI) received preliminary approval from the RI Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education to develop a Middle College Charter School for students interested in careers in nursing or allied health professions.

When we receive final approval next spring, the RINI Middle College Charter School will be the first of its kind in the country. We already are receiving significant national attention for developing this concept.

The charter school will include grades 10 through 12 with an additional "12 Plus" year (Middle College) designed to provide rigorous academic preparation and to acclimate students to a college learning environment. A curriculum will be developed that will adequately prepare students for a high school diploma, to be accepted to an accredited nursing school and to graduate as a registered Nurse (RN). The proposed Middle College Charter School of Nursing addresses a number of critical needs:

- 1. Our nation is faced with a critical shortage of nurses and, according to a number of studies, the demand will continue to exceed the supply in the foreseeable future. This shortage will be especially severe in states like Rhode Island with a rapidly aging population.*
- 2. Too few students in Rhode Island graduate from high school; and fewer still go on to get a college degree. The RINI Middle College Charter School intends to recruit heavily from among young men and women of diverse backgrounds in communities that are under-represented in our state's colleges and universities.*
- 3. Many students who graduate from RI high schools are not adequately prepared to continue their education in college programs that focus*



on the sciences. The RINI Middle College Charter School curriculum will focus on the sciences, information technology and other skills necessary for our students to successfully complete a collegiate degree program and to pursue a career in nursing or related health field.

RINI's goal is to enable motivated students, who might not otherwise have the opportunity, to pursue a career in nursing. Our objective is to ensure that these students have the academic preparation and other skills necessary to graduate from high school and go on to succeed in a college environment.

RINI is working to meet charter school project readiness criteria established by the RI Department of Education so that the Middle College Charter School of Nursing can begin operation in September 2011. Those criteria include identifying and securing appropriate facilities and equipment for the school.