

# Niagara Region Public Health & Emergency Services and Brock University

2023 PARTNERSHIP UPDATE



*Applied Health Sciences master's student Rosemarie Moretti (BScN '19) is conducting graduate research entitled, "Entering the Nursing Workforce during a Pandemic: An Interpretive Phenomenological Analysis Study."*

On September 13, 2019, Niagara Region Public Health and Brock University signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to advance their commitment to collaborate in research and student experiential opportunities that improve the health outcomes of Niagara region residents. This agreement represents the mutual benefits of working together to address community health issues through a transdisciplinary approach to achieve the goal of Niagara being one of the 25 healthiest communities in Canada. This collaborative partnership is reflective of Brock's commitment to knowledge mobilization and using institutional resources to improve the health and vitality of the Niagara region.

## Projects and Initiatives in 2023

The MOU between Niagara Region Public Health and Brock University provides experiential education and research opportunities for students and community members to find new and innovative ways to support the health of Niagara.

### Research

NRPH and Brock collaborate on many research endeavours, with the goal of understanding and supporting the health and wellbeing of the Niagara community.

Research collaborations struck or conducted in 2023 include:

- Graduate research being conducted by Applied Health Sciences master's student Rosemarie Moretti (BScN '19) entitled "Entering the Nursing Workforce during a Pandemic: An Interpretive Phenomenological Analysis Study."

### Service

NRPH and Brock supported each other in various ways in 2023, in efforts to improve the health, well-being, and knowledge of Niagara residents through service.

#### **Exploring Healthcare Quality Improvement Conference 2023**

- Brock hosted the EHQI Conference, with the theme of celebrating 10 years of I-EQUIP, the Interprofessional Education for Quality Program
- Lucas Reid, Brock alum and graduate of the second cohort of I-EQUIP, was a panelist, speaking from his perspective as a public health nurse in case and outbreak management with Niagara Region Public Health.

#### **Other 2023 service collaborations include:**

- Brock Nursing students, staff, and faculty raised funds and collected toys in support of Niagara Region's Nurse-Family Partnership, a free program for young first-time parents to receive support from Public Health Nurses throughout the person's pregnancy and the child's first two years of life.
- An inaugural meeting was held at Brock for a Forum of community partners dedicated to improving the health of Niagara, through collaborative research endeavours.

## Student Experiential Learning

Experiential education is central to the collaboration between Brock and NRPH, ensuring that students receive real-world experience in their education, leading to better-equipped professionals upon graduation.

In 2023, the partnership between Brock and NRPH included:

- 4 Public Health students conducted literature reviews to support NRPH as part of their practicum.
- Health Sciences students in Dr. Pauli Gardner's course on Developing Healthy Communities participate in the [Through Their Eyes](#) Project. This initiative, originally struck with support from NRPH, engages with older adults in Niagara living in Niagara Region Public Housing, to establish relationships between students and older adults, and analyze the age friendliness of the community.
- NRPH was recognized as the Med Plus Award Recipient for 2023 by Brock's Co-op, Careers, and Experiential Education team. This award acknowledges the longstanding partnership with Brock Med Plus and NRPH, as well as the activities in 2023 that supported Med Plus students, including:
  - Provision of professional development healthcare certification trainings,
  - Facilitation of workshop and conversation over public health issues,
  - Informational interviews,
  - Selection of Med Plus to lead the Vision Screening Program, offering free vision screening clinics to local elementary schools.

## Next Steps

Brock University and Niagara Region Public Health have collaborated on a variety of student experience and service initiatives over the past five years, especially in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result of these collaborations and the growing needs of our aging community, Brock and NRPH will be exploring opportunities to continue their shared pursuit of improving health outcomes in Niagara.

2024 will be an exciting period of co-creating new opportunities that build on the shared history between these two organizations. The partnership's activities in research will expand, and additional leadership, research, and work-integrated learning opportunities will be struck to best support student learning and community health.

