The Professional Partnership Unit in the Michigan State University (MSU) College of Nursing is an approved Provider Unit for Continuing Nursing Education (CNE) that supports registered nurses’ needs for professional development in a changing healthcare environment. The Provider Unit serves as a conduit to community and health system partners for quality CNE offerings. As one of the leading centers for nursing education in the nation, the MSU College of Nursing CNE Provider Unit draws on the teaching expertise, education, and practice experience of faculty in bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral programs for evidence based content provided in certificate courses, conferences, seminars and online offerings.

History: Since the early 1990’s, the Michigan State University College of Nursing, Office of Outreach was an approved Provider Unit (PU) through the Michigan Nurses Association, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Centers Commission on Accreditation. In the early years, approval was granted in two year periods. A reapplication for PU status occurred and was granted through 2009. The Office of Outreach became the Professional Partnership Unit in 2001 with an increased focus of engaging community and healthcare partners in professional development activities. Also in 2001, distance learning aligned with the Academic Affairs unit. Since this time, the Professional Partnership Unit has actively sought input from professional nurses related to topics of interest and professional development to provide programs and educational offerings to meet their needs.

In the period of 2001-2013, the Professional Partnership Unit became actively engaged in developing new programs and services. The unit secured a Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Foundation grant to develop an RN Refresher program. This program includes a 15 module online theory portion and 120 hour precepted clinical practicum. The program’s content has been revised over the years and exists today with 60-75 enrollees annually. Also during this timeframe, the Michigan Department of Community Health provided funding for the development of a Case Management Certificate Program. The unit also established professional development opportunities for the Lansing Public Schools in collaboration with the Michigan Department of Community Health. And, the Partners Investing in Nursing’s Future (PIN) grant program through Robert Wood Johnson and Northwest Health Foundation allowed for the development of a series of certificate on-line courses known as RN Career Transition: Nursing for Life. These courses were devoted to extending the life span of a nursing career by transitioning experienced nurses into non-acute care settings. A core series of modules formed the foundational content and specialty modules were developed in the topic areas of Ambulatory Care; Hospice & Palliative Care; Home Care; Long Term Care; Case Management;
and Quality & Safety. The RN Career Transition: Nursing for Life courses were piloted and students enrolled in them up until 2013.

In 2009, the Michigan Nurses Association no longer held the status of accredited approver for continuing nursing education. The Ohio Nurses Association was chosen as the accredited approver for the College of Nursing Professional Partnership Unit for CNE. Application for approved PU status was submitted and granted for a three year period. Reapprication for approval occurs every three years. In May 2015, the renewal application was sent for approval to continue our current approved PU status past August 1, 2015. **On September 15, 2015 we received reapproval as an Approved Provider Unit for continuing nursing education from Ohio Nurses Association for three years until August 1, 2018.**

In alignment with the MSU College of Nursing’s mission and goals, the approved Provider Unit seeks to:

1. Provide CNE professional development offerings aligned with the University and MSU College of Nursing mission and goals, and the needs assessment of learners, in order to apply current evidence in education, research, and practice to the daily work of nurses in Michigan.

2. Provide infrastructure support to develop a variety of online and face to face professional education opportunities for nurses that meet the learning needs of professionals.

3. Expand the internal and external relationships featuring alumni and collaborative partners to develop and implement CNE professional offerings.

4. Support the MSU College of Nursing faculty by sharing expertise in practice and education, and by assisting in the dissemination of research findings.

**Accreditation:**
Michigan State University College of Nursing (OH-294, **08/01/18**) is an approved provider of continuing nursing education by the Ohio Nurses Association (OBN-001-91), an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Commission on Accreditation.