

Toolbox for Success: Building a BSN Program within a Community College

Look beyond the challenges....
and ***Imagine the Possibilities***



Introduction



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Dean, Health Sciences and Public Service



A stethoscope is positioned in the lower-left foreground, resting on a document. The document features a bar chart with blue and yellow bars in the background and a line graph with blue and yellow lines in the foreground. A yellow diagonal banner covers the right side of the image, containing the text.

Question #1

**Where would you
find data to validate
your regional need for
bachelor prepared nurses?**

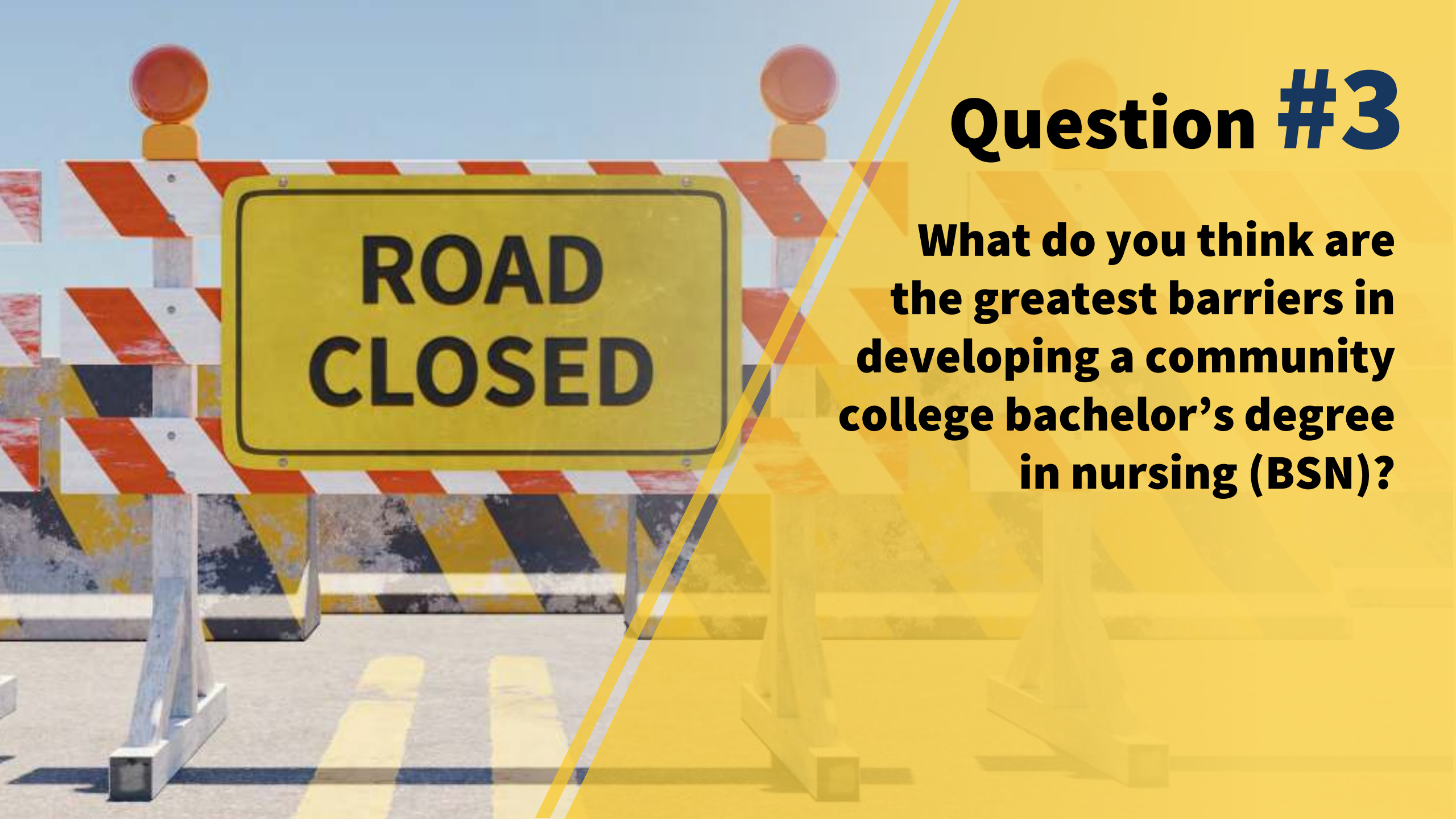
Question #2

Who from your institution should be part of your team of program architects?



Question #3

What do you think are the greatest barriers in developing a community college bachelor's degree in nursing (BSN)?



Workshop Objectives



Share the key components of an effective “tool box” to build a successful community college BSN program.



Identify and explain the potential challenges that hinder the development of a BSN program at the community college level and within your own institution.



Evaluate what potential tools your institution will need to initiate, plan, execute, and control for contingencies when building a BSN program.

Rhodes State College Fast Facts

- Located in rural **Lima**, Ohio
- Over **4,000** students enrolled annually
- **65%** female
- Average age is **25** (excluding dual credit)
- **11%** minority
- **89%** receive financial aid
- Over **20,000** degrees and certificates awarded since inception

RSC Nursing Fast Facts

Programs

- **LPN** certificate
- ADN program (**108** seats reserved each Fall and Spring Semester)
- RN to BSN completion program (**20** seats per year)

Demographics

- **90%** female
- **51%** ages 18-24, **38%** ages 25-39, and **11%** age 40 and older

ACEN accreditation and OBN approval

Borra Center For Health Sciences

- Opened August 2021
- **50,000** square feet
- State-of-the-art Technology
- **12** Bed Nursing Laboratory and **4** patient rooms



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History of Community College Bachelor Degrees in Ohio

- **2017** – Ohio Law Enabled Applied Bachelor Degrees
- **2021** – Ohio Law Changed to Allow Community College BSN
- **2023** – Ohio Law Changed to Specify Pre-licensure BSN for Proposals Submitted by Deadline Date

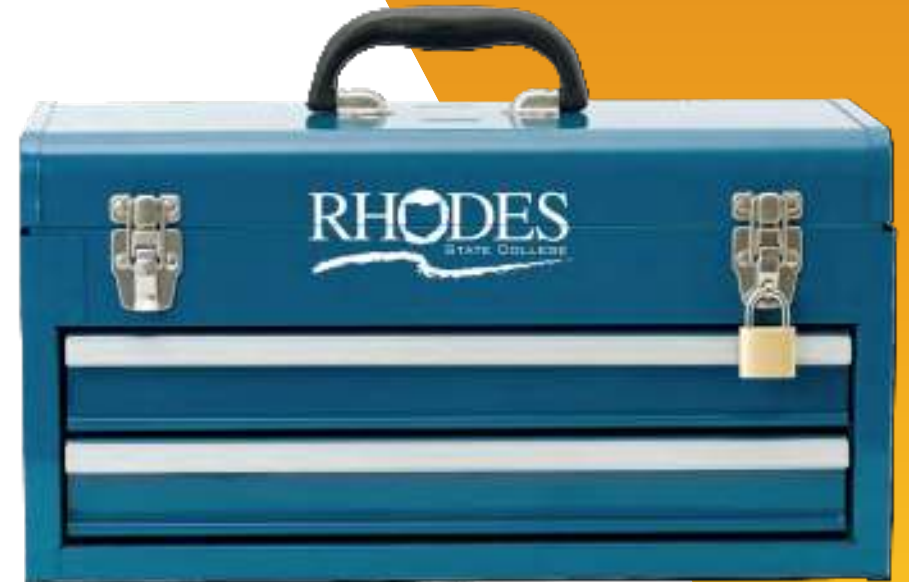


Toolbox

➤ Prepare Early

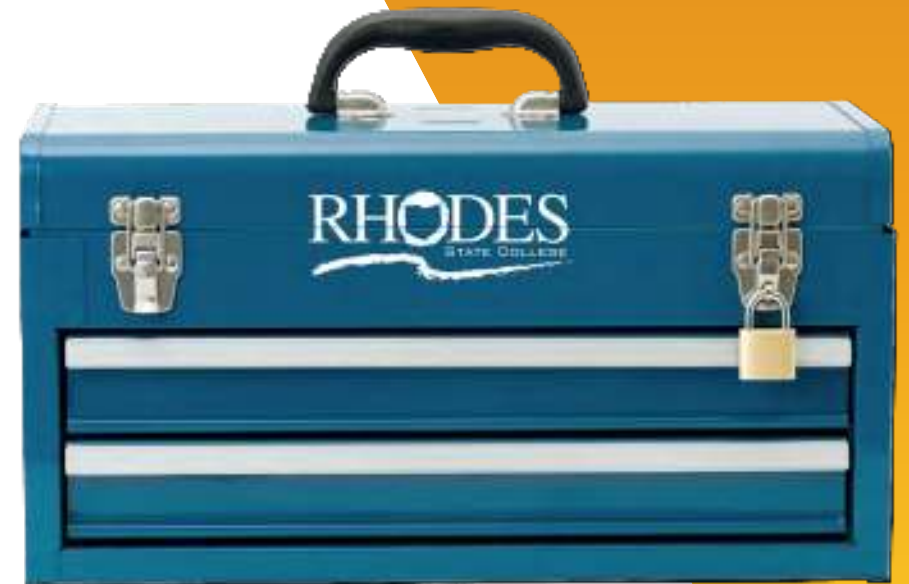
- Select First-rate Team of Program Architects
- Survey Landscape
- Design Program Blueprint

➤ Navigate Legislation



Toolbox

- **Be Agile & Anticipate Questions**
- **Obtain Building Permits from Oversight Authorities**
- **Incorporate Contingencies “*for all the above*” to pass all inspections**





Challenge #1

Time Commitment

Action:
Prepare Early

Prepare Early

**Select First-Rate Team
of Program Architects**



Select First-rate Team of Program Architects

President's Level

- **CEOs** of local Hospitals
- Ohio Association of Community Colleges (**OACC**)

Academic Level perspective

- **Dean**
- **Chair** of Nursing Services
- **Chief** Nursing Officers of Local Hospitals



Prepare Early

Survey Landscape



Survey Landscape

Collect workforce data to validate the need for BSNs



National level

- National League of Nursing



State

- Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation



Region

- Survey hospitals in 10 county area of RSC



Local

- Survey hospitals in Lima



Prepare Early

Design Program Blueprint



Design Program Blueprint



Curriculum Development

- Seek **input** from local hospitals and students
- Consider **delivery**
 - Hybrid
 - On-line
 - Short courses/8 weeks

Prepare Early

**Begin Writing
Proposal**



Begin Writing Proposal

- Align with **ODHE** Requirements and Law
- Align with **HLC, OBN, ACEN** Requirements

Challenge #2

Navigating Legislation

Action:

Hire Lobbyist & Partner
with Legislators



Hire Lobbyist and Engage with Legislators



Hire Lobbyist and Engage with Legislators

Strategy Development

- Multiple Preliminary Meetings with **Lobbyist to Educate**
- Structured Plan **Developed**
- Meetings Scheduled with key legislators
- **Testimony** Scheduled
 - Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee
 - Included RSC President & Hospital Partner

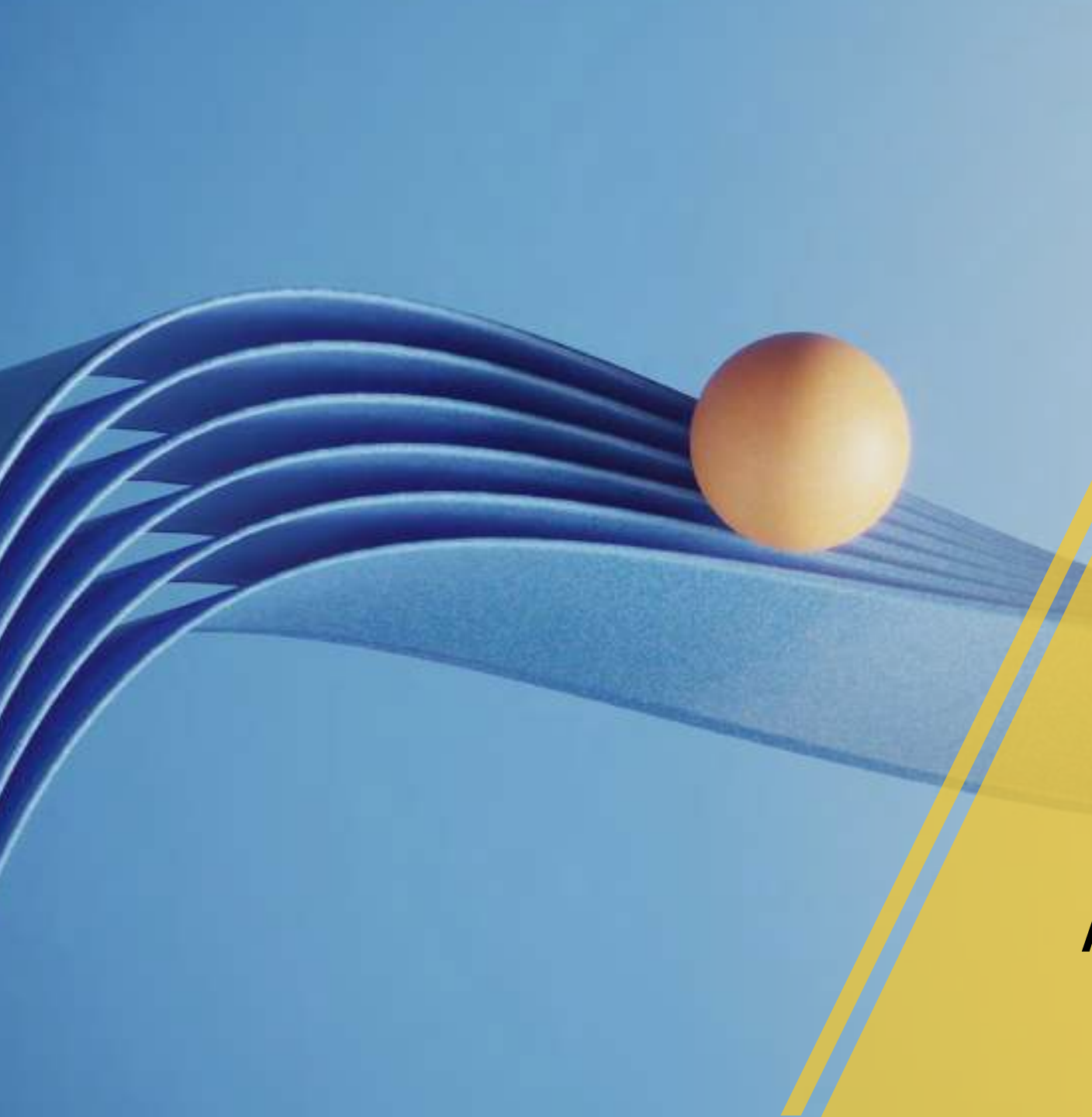
Effective September 30, 2021:



New language for the law enabling bachelor's degrees at Ohio two-year colleges.



Now states... may apply to the chancellor for authorization to offer applied bachelor's **and nursing bachelor's degree programs.**

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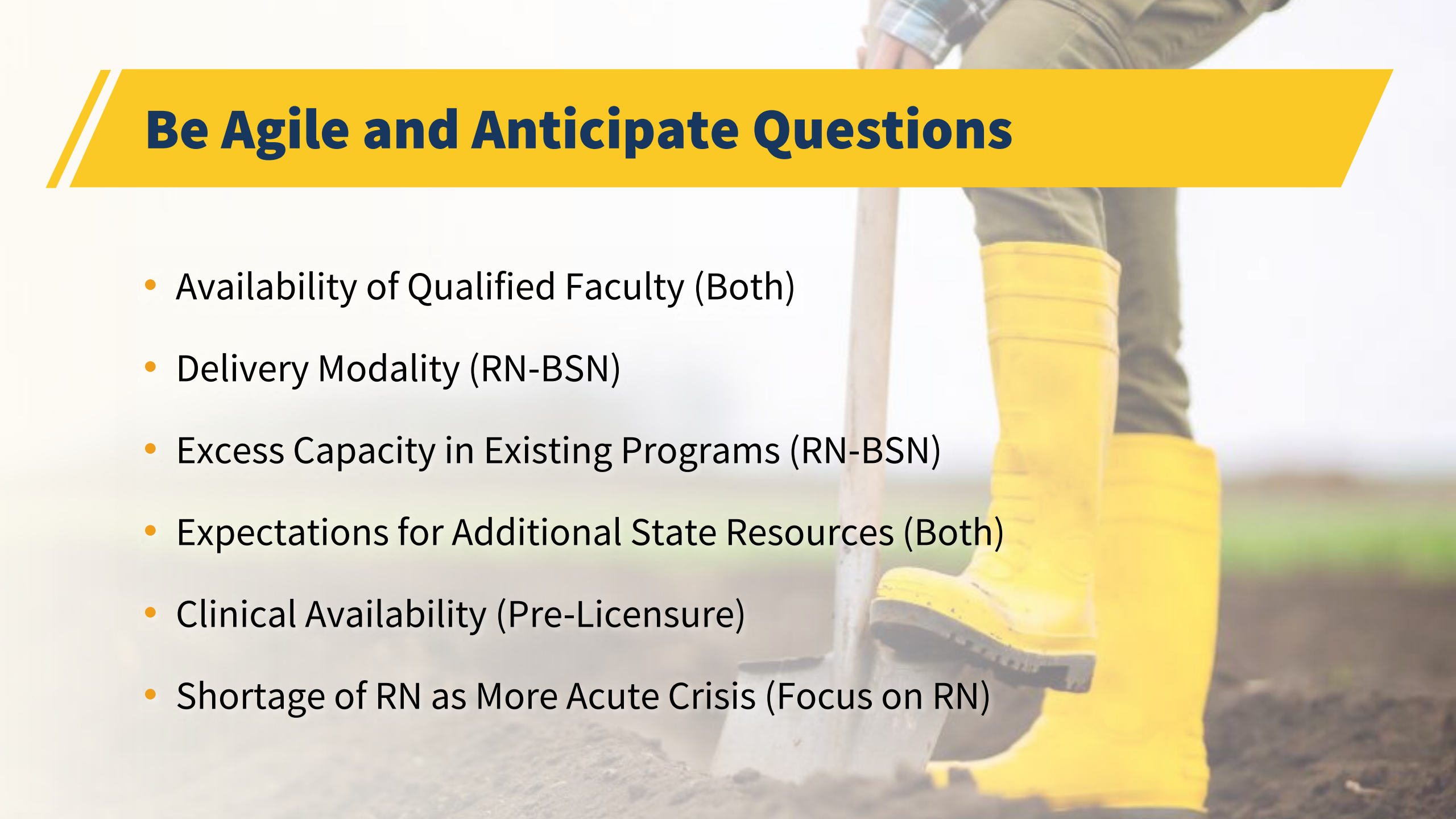
Challenge #3

Tell us more...

Action:
Be Agile and
Anticipate Questions

Be Agile and Anticipate Questions





Be Agile and Anticipate Questions

- Availability of Qualified Faculty (Both)
- Delivery Modality (RN-BSN)
- Excess Capacity in Existing Programs (RN-BSN)
- Expectations for Additional State Resources (Both)
- Clinical Availability (Pre-Licensure)
- Shortage of RN as More Acute Crisis (Focus on RN)

Effective Date, 2022:



Approval Letter from
Chancellor to move forward
with the RN-BSN.



Pre-licensure BSN denied.



Challenge #4

Legislation Fuzziness

Action:

Continue Engagement with
Lobbyist
and Legislators

...shall approve the
creation of any nursing
bachelor's degree

... meet prescribed
requirements.

Continue Engagement with Lobbyist and Legislators



Continue Engagement with Lobbyist and Legislators

- Never Give Up
- **Key Legislators** Called Meetings
 - Key Representative Meeting with Hospitals
 - Key Senators and Representatives Meeting with Chancellor and Staff, Hospitals, College Administrators
- Letters Submitted to **Chancellor** to Reconsider Pre-licensure
- Hospitals Attended All Meetings – **Critical** Need

It was all hands on deck... amazing to see the support!

Effective January 5, 2023:

Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the chancellor shall approve any proposal for a prelicensure nursing bachelor's degree program submitted by a community, state community, or technical college **prior to September 30, 2022**. The chancellor **promptly shall transmit** that proposal along with the chancellor's approval to the appropriate accreditation bodies.

Obtain Building Permits

- HLC
- ACEN
- OBN

BUILDING PERMIT

THIS CARD MUST BE DISPLAYED AT ALL TIMES

NO. CA1258-9765-987 ISSUED FOR WORK AT:





**Look Beyond the
Challenges...**

**Imagine the
Possibilities...**

**You Too Can Provide
Equitable Access!**

Question & Answers



www.RhodesState.edu/CCBA

