

**Academic and Professional Success Plan Template**



**Walden University  
Graduate Study for Advanced Practice Nurse  
Professor name  
August 2025**

## **Introduction**

Networking is now a compulsory component of academic success and career growth and it is especially true of the nursing profession in which collaboration, mentorship and sharing of knowledge are success indicators. According to scholars, such as Javier et al. (2021), purposeful networking can not only provide a chance to access mentors and other sources of profession but also provide an opportunity of collaboration that can do much to enhance learning outcomes and clinical competence. The skill of building and maintaining meaningful networks is a source of success in the nursing field, where evidence-based practice, leadership, and lifelong development are prerequisites (Mlambo et al., 2021). To me, networking goes beyond finding career contacts because networking is also about building a support network that helps me overcome the difficulties in my course of studies and a career change. Good networks provide emotional support and positive feedback and can give access to knowledge that would otherwise be inaccessible (Morse and Brown, 2021).

## **NETWORK MEMBER 1**

**Name:** Dr. Sarah Thompson

**Title:** Associate Professor of Nursing

**Organization:** Walden University

**Academic or Professional:** Academic

**Why I selected this individual and/or team and how they will support my success in the MSN program or Post-Master's Certificate (PMC) and as a practicing nurse:**

Dr. Thompson is a nursing leadership and advanced practice specialist and healthcare policy. Her professional knowledge will help me acquire critical thinking skills that are required in the nursing practice to make evidence-based decisions. I will also meet her during office hours to get feedback on assignments and consult her when considering possible thesis areas. Through her contributions to leadership and policy, I will have a better chance of applying the theoretical knowledge into practice in clinical and administrative environments.

## **NETWORK MEMBER 2**

**Name:** Mark Rivera, MSN, RN

**Title:** Nurse Manager

**Organization:** St. Mary's Medical Center

**Academic or Professional:** Professional

**Why I selected this individual and/or team and how they will support my success in the MSN program or Post-Master's Certificate (PMC) and as a practicing nurse:**

Mr. Rivera is well experienced in patient care management and guiding a team. The coordination of interdisciplinary teams has led to better patient results and efficient operations. His guidance will also be very helpful during my shift to the real world after learning in academia. My meeting with him will be once a month, implying that we will discuss the strategies of implementing the theories of leadership and how to enhance communication with employees and ways of managing workplace issues. His advice will make me become a confident nurse leader who is capable of balancing between clinical and administrative duties.

### **NETWORK MEMBER 3**

**Name:** Dr. Rachel Nguyen

**Title:** Director of Nursing Research

**Organization:** National Institute of Nursing Innovation

**Academic or Professional:** Academic

**Why I selected this individual and/or team and how they will support my success in the MSN program or Post-Master's Certificate (PMC) and as a practicing nurse:**

Dr. Nguyen has a long history of nursing research, especially in chronic disease management and patient safety. The mentorship will enhance my research and analytical abilities, enabling me to be able to incorporate evidence-based practice within clinical practice. I will consult her on my research project designs and will attend her seminars to keep up with new nursing innovations.

Collaborating with her will enable me to contribute to the development of knowledge in the field of nursing as well as enhance my personal capacity to apply the results of the research process directly in patient care.

## **NETWORK MEMBER 4**

**Name:** Dr. Anthony Williams, DNP, RN

**Title:** Chief Nursing Officer

**Organization:** Horizon Health Network

**Academic or Professional:** Professional

**Why I selected this individual and/or team and how they will support my success in the MSN program or Post-Master's Certificate (PMC) and as a practicing nurse:**

Dr. Williams has extensive experience in nursing leadership at the executive level, managing healthcare policy and implementation, staffing, and organizational development. His guidance will be crucial to equip me with the skills to become a leader in healthcare administration. I will shadow him in his leadership sessions and talk to him about my career path in nursing policy and healthcare systems management. His strategic perspectives will assist me in applying the knowledge to professional practice and seeking positions that promote nursing leadership within the healthcare systems.

### **Conclusion**

Networking is also a source of emotional and motivational support in addition to academic and professional advice. Hu et al. (2021) states that positive professional relationships with the help of a professional contribute to resilience, career growth, and advocacy in nursing practice. On the same note, Woehler et al. (2021) note that networking provides access to a wide range of opinions, mentorship, and collaboration, which are essential to effective healthcare