



to increase workforce awareness and provide educational opportunities through recruitment, training, and job placement for respiratory therapists in rural South Dakota communities. SDSU would be partnering with the Northern Plains Network (Brookings, Huron, and Madison) to expand access to rural communities and give them the opportunity to complete their Respiratory Care degrees. Currently, the professional program is limited to the urban areas in SD (Rapid City and Sioux Falls). A large majority of SDSU students gain employment at the clinical affiliate sites post-graduation. For some prospective students, moving from rural communities to earn a Respiratory Care degree is not always feasible. Expanding the

contribute to the workforce shortages in those areas.

The project focuses on developing local training pathways in rural communities for respiratory therapists, who were found to be in high demand during the pandemic. partner sites have reported that they all have been operating at about 50% of staffing levels for respiratory therapists throughout the pandemic. During the height of the pandemic there were not enough respiratory therapists to see all patients, requiring other healthcare workers who lack specialty training, including nurses and paramedics, to provide respiratory care services. This stopgap solution highlighted the need to expand the respiratory therapy workforce in rural counties. It is also estimated that over 90,000 respiratory therapists will leave the profession by 2030 due to retirements, further contributing to the workforce gap.<sup>1</sup> The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts that between 2021 and 2030, openings for





Goal #4 Arts and Humanities/Diversity: SGR #4 Electives Credits: 6

Goal #5 Mathematics: MATH 114 College Algebra (COM) [SGR #5] Credits: 3

Goal #6 Natural Sciences:

BIOL 151 General Biology I (COM) [SGR #6] Credits: 4 and BIOL 151L General Biology I Lab (COM) [SGR #6] Credits: 0 \*

CHEM 106 Chemistry Survey (COM) [SGR #6] Credits: 3 and CHEM 106L Chemistry Survey Lab (COM) [SGR #6] Credits: 1

or CHEM 112 General Chemistry I (COM) [SGR #6] Credits: 3 and CHEM 112L General Chemistry I Lab (COM) [SGR #6] Credits: 1

#### Major Requirements

BIOL 221 Human Anatomy (COM) Credits: 4

BIOL 221L Human Anatomy Lab (COM) Credits: 0

MICR 231 General Microbiology (COM) [SGR #6] Credits: 4

MICR 231L General Microbiology Lab (COM) [SGR #6] Credits: 0

PHA 330 Pharmacology for Allied Health Professions Credits: 3

RESP 105 Respiratory Care Physical Science Credits: 3

RESP 110 Introduction to Respiratory Care Credits: 4

RESP 110L Introduction to Respiratory Care Lab Credits: 2

RESP 119 Introduction to the Respiratory Care Profession Credits: 2

RESP 150 Clinical Experience I Credits: 4

RESP 180 Pathophysiology for Respiratory Care I Credits: 2

RESP 210 Respiratory Critical Care Credits: 3

RESP 210L Respiratory Critical Care Lab Credits: 2

RESP 250 Clinical Experience II Credits: 5

RESP 280 Pathophysiology for Respiratory Care II Credits: 3

RESP 310 Advanced Respiratory Care Credits: 4

RESP 350 Clinical Experience III Credits: 5

RESP 355 Respiratory Care in Clinical Medicine Credits: 3

RESP 360 Communication Skills for Respiratory Care Credits: 3

RESP 380 Respiratory Care for Special Populations Credits: 3

RESP 395 Practicum (COM) Credits: 2

RESP 420 Critical Review of Healthcare Research Credits: 3

RESP 440 Ethics f792 rC /Pm0 g0 G[( )] TJET00.00000912 0 612 792 reW\* nBT/F1 1( )10(C)7(re)17

other technologies as they communicate. An enrollment and student success coach is housed in Continuing and Distance Education and is available to assist students with the onboarding process through orientation for online learners and connecting to necessary resources online and on campus. Finally, online tutoring support is available through Smarthinking (Pearson Education) and student services such as disability services accommodations will be available to students upon request.

