Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has funded Year 4 of Kean University’s New Jersey Nursing Education Collaborative. Dr. Minnie Campbell, Executive Director of the School of Nursing, will continue to serve as the Project Director of this successful program. NJNEC is a group of graduate Nursing programs that has come together, with support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation of $2.2 million dollars over four years, to establish a Nursing education consortium to prepare nurse educators for the state of New Jersey.

The Nursing programs in the Collaborative include: William Patterson University; Wayne NJ; Kean University; Union NJ; The College of New Jersey; Ewing NJ; and Richard Stockton College, Pomona NJ. These four schools agreed to participate in the grant as a group because their respective programs represent the north, central and southern portions of the state and offer unique graduate programs in clinical specialization and advanced practice. William Patterson University (WPU) is the lead organization on the grant and offers the online Nursing education courses.

The students who have been accepted into the respective clinical specialty or advanced practice program, must complete the entire academic program in addition to taking the four online courses from WPU, participate in online collaborative learning sessions offered by the New Jersey Nursing Initiative, and attend Nursing education and clinical conferences. The students receive full scholarship and textbook support, a generous stipend, and support to attend in-state or out-of-state conferences. The NJNEC is the only grant group to receive grant support for four years. The grant was awarded in AY 08-09 and called for the NJNEC to prepare 14 nurse faculties by the end of the grant in AY 11-12. AY 08-09 was the planning year and the first student cohort (8 students, 2 at each school) was admitted in AY 09-10. In the next academic year, six additional students were admitted, one to Kean. In May 2011, the two students admitted in the first cohort will graduate. The last student will graduate in May 2012. All of the graduates will be offered monetary incentives to teach full or part time and to pursue PhD degrees.